

# Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

## Ephesians 5:1-7

### Lesson 10

Few would disagree with the statement "children are like their parents". Paul begins the fifth chapter of Ephesians with the words *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children*. The first attribute of God expressed in this section is *love*. God is love. Therefore, we are to walk in love. This section also points out behaviors, which should not be descriptive of a believer's life. As we continue in our efforts to walk worthy of Him, may our imitation of our Lord be one that honors Him, rather than shames Him.

#### DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 5:1-7

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Ephesians 5:1-7 is one paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

*God and Jesus (Christ)*

Term of conclusion: *therefore*

Contrast: *but*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 5:1-7. Remember, as you mark the words *God* and *Jesus*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them. You do not need to mark every word that refers them - only those that you feel are significant.

3. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is written twice in this section. Record each instance and what the *therefore* is based upon.

4. *Therefore do not be partakers with them* (Ephesians 5:7). According to this section of Ephesians 5 (verses 3-6), what behaviors are practiced by people we are *not to be partakers with*?

## DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 5:1-2

1. Although this section of Ephesians includes several behaviors we are to avoid, the section begins with a positive instruction. What does Paul tell us to *be*?
  - a. According to the following verses, what characteristics does God want us to *imitate*?
    - Luke 6:35
  
    - Ephesians 4:32
  
    - 1 Peter 1:15
  
    - 1 John 4:11
2. The New International Version translates Ephesians 5:1 as *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children*. How does knowing you are God's *dearly loved child* cause you to want to *imitate* Him?
  - a. How can a person know that they are God's *child*? see John 1:12
3. Ephesians 5:2 instructs us to *walk in love*. Whose *love* are we to *imitate*?
  - a. What did Christ do *for us*?
  - b. Describe the *love* a Christian should *walk in*.
    - 1.) When is it most difficult to *walk in love*?
  
    - 2.) What have you learned that helps you to *love* when you don't feel like it?

### DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 5:3-4

1. Ephesians 5:3 begins with the contrasting word *but*. In contrast to the way we are to *walk*, Paul lists several behaviors in verse 3 which are not acceptable for the believer. What are these three behaviors?

Challenge: Define these three behaviors using a Bible dictionary

- a. What does Paul say about these behaviors?

2. Paul continues in verse 4 to list three other sinful behaviors. What are they?

- a. What do these particular sins deal with?

- b. Summarize the warnings about the tongue in:

Matthew 12:34-35

James 3:4-7

- c. What does Paul say about these behaviors in Ephesians 5:4?

- 1.) What does Paul say we are to use our tongues for?

- 2.) What can we learn about *giving of thanks* and praise from:

Psalm 33:1

Hebrews 13:15

- a.) Why is *giving of thanks* a sacrifice?

## DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 5:5

1. The exhortation of Ephesians 5:5 is stronger than that of previous verses. Paul again lists sinful behaviors. However, rather than listing them as behaviors, he labels the people that commit them, indicating that he is referring to people whose lifestyles can be described by at least one of these sins. What does he call them?
  - a. What does Paul say about those who live lifestyles in these kinds of sin?
    - 1.) 1 Corinthians 6:9,10 and Galatians 5:21 parallel this statement. What do they say?
2. *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry* (Colossians 3:5 NLT). Explain as you would to a person struggling with this, what it means to *put to death* these sins.
  - a. What two things can we learn from the last part of Romans 8:13?
3. What question does Paul ask in Romans 6:21? (use another translation if you have one)
  - a. How would you answer that question?
  - b. What is the ultimate fruit (or result) of unforgiven sin?
    - 1). As believers, how do we know we will not be judged for our sins, no matter how bad they might be?

Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.

## DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 5:6-7

1. Many could react to the stern statements in the prior verses with apathy. What is Paul's warning in Ephesians 4:6?
  - a. What type of words is used to *deceive* the believer?
    - 1.) What are some examples of *empty words*, which might be used by *deceivers* to try to cause a believer to ignore what Paul has written?
    - 2.) What does Romans 16:18 say about these *deceivers*?
  - b. What warning against deception do we find in Galatians 6:7?
2. According to Ephesians 5:6b, what will the *sons of disobedience* experience?
  - a. What do you think the *wrath of God* is like?
3. Why do you think someone would want people to believe that God will not judge sin?
4. How should we relate to those within the church who live in sinful lifestyles? verse 7
  - a. What do the following verses say about our behavior towards those who continually commit these sins?  
2 Thessalonians 3:6  
  
1 Corinthians 5:11
    - 1.) Although we are to discontinue fellowship with those who claim to be Christians and are in sin, who is to be the judge of those who do not claim to be believers? see 1 Corinthians 5:12-13

## DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 5:1-7

1. Verse 1 exhorts us to *be imitators of God*. Consider how awesome and wonderful God is. What are some of His attributes that are your favorites?
  - a. How does this compare with your viewpoint of God, before you were one of His *dear children*?
  
2. Consider Christ's example of love exemplified by His sacrifices. In what ways do sacrifices show love?
  
3. The consequences of sin stated in these verses are severe. One might perceive God as cruel and harsh. How would you explain that a loving God must also severely judge sin?
  
4. Scripture commands us to avoid relationships with those who claim to be Christians who are living in certain sinful lifestyles. Why is this important?
  
5. How have you been challenged by these first seven verses of Ephesians 5?

*To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you,  
leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

*- 1 Peter 2:21 NIV*