

STUDY GUIDE 9
EPHESIANS 5:1-20



**Be Imitators of God or Living as Dearly Loved Children or
Living as Children of Light**

As you start this study, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God has said through Paul.

This section continues the contrast between the old way of life as Gentiles and the new way of life as Christ's body, the church.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 5:1-20 three times.

1. Read verse 1. Who are we to imitate? In what way? Think of how a child imitates its parent. Explain how this helps you understand how to imitate God.
2. In verse 2 we are to live or walk what? Who is our model to do this? How did He model this?
3. What effect did Jesus death have on God?

TO DIG DEEPER: In verse 2 the terms "fragrant offering" or "aroma" and "sacrifice" refer to sacrifices and offerings the Jews offered. Read Genesis 8:21; Exodus 29:18, 25, 41 and Leviticus 1:4, 13, and 17. What do you learn about these offerings? Now read Hebrews 7:27; 9:11-14 and 10:10, 12. Explain how Jesus Christ fulfills these sacrifices and offerings.

DAY 2

1. From verse 3 list three behaviors that Christians are not to participate in. Why?
2. Paul says there should “not even be a hint” of these 3 behaviors. Another translation (New American Standard Version) says they should not “even be named among you”. Why do you think this is so important?
3. Verse 4 mentions three forms of speech that should not be a part of a Christian’s speech. What are they? Why should they not be spoken: What should be in place of them? Read Ephesians 4:15, 25, 29. What is the purpose of our speech?
4. In verse 5 what is the result of doing those things just mentioned in verses 3 and 4?

TO DIG DEEPER: If you have a Bible Dictionary, look up the definitions of the six behaviors named in verses 3 and 4. If you have a Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance, a NIV Exhaustive Concordance or another complete concordance, look up each word and find the Greek word used in these verses and the definition of that word. Write the definitions down. How does this help you to better understand these verses?

DAY 3

1. In verse 6, what can deceive us? Who deceives us?
2. Verse 7 says not to be partners with those who are disobedient. Going back to verse 6, what is their fate? Look up the word “partners” or “partakers” in a Bible Dictionary (a regular dictionary can be used if you do not have a Bible Dictionary). Write down the meaning. How would you explain this verse to another Christian?
3. Verse 8 says “you were once” or “formerly” _____, “but now you are _____.” How are we to live? What are the fruit of the light in verse 9?
4. In verse 10 what else are we to do?

DAY 4

1. In verse 11 what are we to do with the “fruitless or unfruitful deeds of darkness”? Why according to verse 12? Verses 3-8 present deeds of darkness in contrast to verse 9 which presents fruit of light. Why do you think it is shameful or disgraceful to speak of these deeds of darkness? What effect can talking about these deeds have on yourself? On others?
2. From verses 13 and 14 what is made visible by the light? Read John 3:19-21 and write what Jesus taught about light and darkness.
3. The quote in verse 14 is not directly from Scripture but probably from a hymn based on Scriptures. Read Isaiah 26:19; 51:17; 52:1; 60:1 and Malachi 4:2. From these verses and the context of Ephesians 5: 8-13, write out what this hymn is referring to.

DAY 5

1. According to verses 15 and 16, what is involved in “being careful, then, how you live or walk”? Why should we be careful (see verse 16)?
2. According to verse 17, instead of being foolish, what should we do? In verse 18, what should we not do, and what should we do instead?
3. From verses 19 and 20 what results when we are being filled with the Holy Spirit? Note the verb “be filled” is a present tense verb signifying continuous action – or “go on being filled”. It is a command – we are to continue letting the Spirit fill us.

DAY 6

Read again Ephesians 5:1-20. Reflect on these questions:

Am I imitating God?

Am I living a life of self-giving love like Jesus?

Do I participate in any behaviors or speech that are improper or out of place for God’s people?

Does my life consist of the fruit of light?

Do I make the most of every opportunity?

Am I letting the Spirit fill me daily?

What do I need to do to align my life with what these verses say?

Now spend time in prayer – confess your failings, yield yourself to God’s will for your life as expressed in this passage, and give thanks to God for the Holy Spirit, and ask for His filling daily.