

# THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



## 9. Live as Children of Light

### Introduction

Often we hear the expression, 'Practice what you preach'. This is really what Paul is saying in his letter to the believers in Ephesus. In the first half of the book he tells us about the grace that God has lavished upon us in Christ, but then he goes on to say, "Now you need to put this into practice." In the passage we are going to look at today, we are being urged to follow the example of Jesus Christ. We are to live a life of love, live in the light and to live wisely.

### Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20

#### 1. Live a Life of Love v1-7

- † The Apostle Paul is speaking about living a life of love. Whose example are we to follow, and what does this mean? V1-2

*(We are to imitate God and also follow the example of Jesus, who gave his life for us. This means we are to live a life that is unselfish and be willing to lay down our lives for others.)*

- † What are we called in verses 1 and 3? In view of this, what actions, thoughts and words are not fitting for us now? V3, 4

*(We are called beloved children or dearly loved children in v1 and God's holy children or saints in v3. This means that any hint of sexual immorality, any impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking should have no place in our lives.)*

- † Why is it important to take these words seriously according to v5 and 6?

*(It is important to take these warnings seriously as people who live like this won't have any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and they will face God's wrath.)*

- † What we say is important! In v4 it mentions different kinds of speech that are out of place for a believer. What do you think you should do when others around you tell an unclean joke? Discuss. See v7.

*(In v7 it tells us not to be partners with those who speak in this way. There are different ways to deal with this situation. If it is a group setting you may need to walk away, but if you are with an individual you may need to tell them you don't wish to listen to that kind of talk. The Holy Spirit will guide you – ask him!)*

- † In v5 it says that an impure or greedy person is an idolater. What does this mean?

*(Someone who lusts after another or wants more and more is living to please themselves. Self has become their god. That is idolatry.)*

## 2. Live in the Light v8-14

We have seen how we are to imitate God and live a life of love. Paul continues by saying that we are to live as children of light. Our God is described as love and light. See 1 John 1:5, 4:16

† What is the evidence in a person's life if they are walking in the light? V9-10

*(The evidence is the fruit of light which is in everything that is righteous, good and true. It is whatever pleases the Lord.)*

† What else does the light of God do in a person's life? V13-14

*(The light exposes darkness in our lives. God's purpose is to convict us so we will repent and turn back to him. God does this out of love, so we will walk in his light.)*

## 3. Live Wisely v13-20

† How will we live if we are wise? V16, 17, 18.

*(We will make the most of every opportunity we are given, seek to understand God's will for our lives and be filled with the Holy Spirit.)*

† Why do you think Paul goes on to say we are to speak and sing praise and thanksgiving in v19-20? How is this connected to what he has just been telling us? Also see 1 Thessalonians 5:18

*(Praise and thanksgiving is an overflow of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Giving thanks is what God asks us to do – it is his will for our lives.)*

† Share one thing that has stood out to you in the study today. What is God saying to you? Share.

## Conclusion

The world around us is in spiritual darkness. Despite the fact that our technology is so advanced and knowledge has increased, mankind's moral standards have not changed! Man simply cannot change himself. However we have experienced God's grace and received his forgiveness, so now we are to walk in love and in the light. Nevertheless, we still live in this dark world, and so we need to walk carefully, knowing what God's will is. As we learn to give thanks, and sing praise, we will be lifted above the darkness and be empowered to live in victory. Amen!