

SAINTS



Saints

Letting the Light In Ephesians 5:1-21

Paul continues his word of application in Ephesians 5. Beginning with chapter 4, he's challenged the church to unity and maturity. When we are unified, we mature; when we mature, we are united. At the conclusion of Ephesians 4, Paul challenges us with what *not* to do. In Ephesians 5, he shifts to how we *are* to live. Paul encourages us with three challenges: Be like Jesus, live in the light, and be filled with the Spirit. This is what it looks like to follow Jesus. This is what it looks like to be a Saint!

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you're still thinking about?
- What is something that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway for you from the message?

Ephesians 5:1–21

5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not become partners with them; **8** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- Picking up from Ephesians 4, Paul challenges us to “be imitators of God” (Ephesians 5:1). According to Paul, what does it mean to imitate God? What does this practically look like for us?
- Paul provides a list of behaviors that is not in line with imitating God and living in the light. What are these? Why are these behaviors not for Saints?
- If we’re not to live in darkness, what are we to live in? Paul describes the light as what is good, right, and true (Ephesians 5:9). What is good, right, and true? What does it look like for us to live out what is good, right, and true?

- Finally, Paul concludes by commanding us to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). How have you understood to be filled with the Spirit in the past? What’s the difference between being filled with the Spirit and being baptized by the Holy Spirit? How does this align with what Paul teaches here?
- Paul compares being under the influence of alcohol to being under the influence of the Holy Spirit. What can being under the influence of alcohol teach us about being under the influence of the Holy Spirit?
- What do you need to do in your life be filled with the Spirit or be under the influence of the Holy Spirit?
- Close your time by praying for each other individually and specifically. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower each of you to be filled by Him.