

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

### Monday: God's Example

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> **Follow** God's **example**, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and **walk** in the **way of love**, just as Christ loved us and **gave himself up** for us as a **fragrant offering** and **sacrifice** to God.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Follow God's Example** (Greek: *ginomai mimētēs theos*): be imitators of God
  - Growing spiritually to become more like Christ is the goal.
  - In this context, Paul is referring to imitating God's holiness (Matthew 5:48).
- **Walk** (Greek: *peripateō*): to conduct oneself, to live
  - In Greek, this work refers to continual, daily action.
  - Walking in love cannot be a one-time action, it must be continuous.
- **Way of Love** (Greek: *en agapē*): the way of unconditional love
  - We are called to love others the way that God loves us.
  - Christ's love for us is clearly seen in John 10:7-18.
- **Gave Himself Up** (Greek: *paradidōmi heautou*): freely offered Himself
  - God's example is to freely give Himself to others.
  - God calls us to follow His example and give ourselves away (John 15:13).
- **Fragrant Offering** (Greek: *euōdia prosphora*): sweet-smelling aroma
  - Paul is using a word picture from the Old Testament offerings in the temple.
  - The offerings would have a unique aroma symbolizing that God is pleased.
  - Paul is saying that Christ's death on the cross pleased and glorified God.
- **Sacrifice** (Greek: *thysia*): surrendered or devoted object or person
  - Christ's death was the ultimate sacrifice for sin.
  - Christ finished God's work of redemption once and for all (Hebrews 10:11-14).

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Christ gave Himself for God's glory and our good. That is the ultimate example to follow in our daily lives. We have to find ways to sacrifice our selfishness for the sake of God's glory and the good of others. This is the goal of the Christian life.

**What does it mean to walk in the way of love?**

**In what ways should you give yourself up for the sake of others?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you more ways to give yourself up for the sake of others.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

### Tuesday: Not Even A Hint

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 5:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be **even a hint** of **sexual immorality**, or of any kind of **impurity**, or of **greed**, because these are **improper** for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup> Nor should there be **obscenity**, **foolish talk** or **coarse joking**, which are **out of place**, but rather **thanksgiving**. <sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an **idolater**—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Even a Hint** (Greek: *mēde onomazō*): not even mentioned, named, or rumored
  - Paul is saying that this list of sins should not exist at all in the church.
  - This requires us to have the right boundaries in place to avoid these things.
- **Sexual Immorality** (Greek: *porneia*): any sexual act outside of biblical marriage
- **Impurity** (Greek: *akatharsia*): uncleanness, extravagantly reckless (Romans 6:19)
- **Greed** (Greek: *pleonexia*): strong desire for more, discontent (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
- **Improper** (Greek: *prepō*): not fitting, not becoming, destructive
- **Obscenity** (Greek: *aischrotēs*): filthiness, causing a scene, being indecent, lewd
- **Foolish Talk** (Greek: *mōrologia*): silly, empty, worthless, careless
- **Coarse Joking** (Greek: *eutrapelia*): harsh, vulgar, crude, embarrassing
- **Out of Place** (Greek: *ou anēkō*): unfitting, improper, out of character
- **Thanksgiving** (Greek: *eucharistia*): gratitude, the opposite of greed (2 Cor. 9:11)
- **Idolater** (Greek: *eidōlōlatrēs*): worship of things, the cause of greed (1 Cor. 10:7)

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Paul gives us a list of sins that should not be happening in the life of believers. We should have such strict boundaries or guardrails in our lives that these things should not even be rumored about believers. We should only be known for being like Christ.

**Is there a hint of any of these things in your life?**

**What are the consequences of living in these sins according to verse five?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you rid yourself of things that are dishonoring to Him.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

### Wednesday: Children of Light

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 5:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> Let no one **deceive** you with **empty words**, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be **partners** with them.

<sup>8</sup> For you were once **darkness**, but now you are **light** in the Lord. **Live** as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the **fruit** of the light consists in all **goodness, righteousness** and **truth**) <sup>10</sup> and **find out what pleases the Lord**.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Deceive** (Greek: *apataō*): to cheat, beguile, trick
- **Empty Words** (Greek: *kenos logos*): vain, worthless, fruitless (James 1:26)
- **Partners** (Greek: *symmetochos*): partakers, to join in together
  - This can refer to being a partner both actively or passively.
  - Relationships determine the direction and quality of your life (1 Cor. 15:33).
- **Darkness** (Greek: *skotos*): ignorant, ungodly, immoral (Matthew 6:22-23)
- **Light** (Greek: *phōs*): delicate, pure, brilliant quality that shines openly to others
- **Live as Children of Light** (Greek: *peripateō hōs teknon phōs*): walk in light
  - The exact opposite of living in darkness (immorality).
  - This kind of righteous living cannot be hidden or private (Matthew 5:14-16)
- **Fruit** (Greek: *karpos*): the natural result of something growing (Galatians 5:19-24)
- **Goodness** (Greek: *agathōsynē*): uprightness of heart and life (2 Thessalonians 1:11)
- **Righteousness** (Greek: *dikaiosynē*): integrity, virtue, purity of life, correct living
- **Truth** (Greek: *alētheia*): objective reality, certainty of principles and laws
- **Find Out What Pleases the Lord:** seek with all your being (Matthew 22:37-38)

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

If we are not careful we can be easily deceived into being partners with disobedient people. But as believers, we are called out of our former life of darkness and into the light. Living in the light will change our attitude and behavior. The result (fruit) is living a life that is focused on pleasing God at all costs.

**In what ways can we live as children of light?**

**How can we find out what pleases the Lord?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you live as a person of light rather than darkness.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

**Thursday: Exposed**

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ: Ephesians 5:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> **Have nothing to do** with the **fruitless deeds** of darkness, but rather **expose** them. <sup>12</sup> It is **shameful** even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes **visible**—and everything that is **illuminated** becomes a light. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Have Nothing to Do** (Greek: *mē sygkoinōneō*): do not participate in any way
  - Christians often flirt with sin while believing they won't be overcome by it.
  - Paul is saying we should stay as far away as possible from evil.
- **Fruitless Deeds** (Greek: *akarpos ergon*): not yielding anything worthy (Titus 3:14)
- **Expose** (Greek: *elegchō*): to convict, refute, make accountable
  - Paul is speaking in the context of exposing darkness in the church.
  - We are not called to expose the sins of unbelievers (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).
- **Shameful** (Greek: *aischros*): disgraceful, filthy, dishonoring
  - Paul is not saying that only the behavior is shameful.
  - Even to speak of these dark deeds is shameful.
- **Visible** (Greek: *phaneroō*): to make fully known, to see something as it really is
  - We often justify sin rather than seeing sin as God see it.
  - When we admit the severity of our sin, we can find forgiveness (1 Jn. 1:5-10).

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

When we shine the light of God's Word into our hearts, we begin to see things more clearly. Our sin becomes more sickening. Our faults become more than mere mistakes. And in that kind of clarity we find God's heart of holiness and also forgiveness.

**What “deeds of darkness” do you need to expose in your own life?**

**What sins do you justify instead of seeing them the way God sees them?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you see your sin the way He sees your sin.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

### Friday: Be Very Careful

**PRAY:** Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

**READ:** Ephesians 5:15-20

<sup>15</sup> **Be very careful**, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> **making the most of every opportunity**, because **the days are evil**. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be **foolish**, but **understand** what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get **drunk** on wine, which leads to **debauchery**. Instead, be **filled with the Spirit**, <sup>19</sup> speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**UNDERSTAND:** *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Be Very Careful** (Greek: *blepō*): to see, discern, understand clearly
- **Making the Most of Every Opportunity** (Greek: *exagorazō kairos*):
  - Literally, "making the most of your allotted time" in this life.
  - Paul uses the word *kairos* (limited time) rather than *chronos* (ongoing time).
  - So we must be very careful not to waste the short life God has given us.
- **The Days are Evil** (Greek: *hēmera eimi ponēros*): each day brings a hinderance
  - The Ephesians lived in a pagan culture surrounded by evil.
  - Today's culture seeks to hinder our efforts for serving God.
  - Therefore, we must use our days wisely and devoted them to God.
- **Foolish** (Greek: *aphrōn*): without reason, senseless, without reflection or intelligence
  - Fools will not listen to wisdom (Proverbs 12:15).
  - Fools may know what is right, but they do what is wrong anyway.
- **Understand** (Greek: *syniēmi*): to set or join together in the mind
- **Drunk** (Greek: *methuskō*): intoxicated, never permitted for believers
- **Debauchery** (Greek: *asōtia*): loss of control, wild, to throw off all moral restraint
- **Filled with the Spirit** (Greek: *plēroō en pneuma*): full to the top, abounding

**APPLY:** *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Since our time in this life is so short, we ought to be very careful how we live. As followers of Christ, we should never waste our days living for ourselves. There are opportunities all around us to serve God, thank God, and bring Him glory.

**What specific areas of your life do you need to be more careful?**

**What opportunities are you missing? How can you change that?**

**In what areas of your life do you need to be more thankful?**

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you the wisdom and courage to do His will.

# EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

## WEEK NINE EPH. 5:1-20

### Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

**REVIEW:** Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

**PRAY:** Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

**READ: Ephesians 5:21-6:4**

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

<sup>6</sup> <sup>1</sup> Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup> "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

<sup>4</sup> Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

**THINK:** *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

**PRAY:** Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.