

The Book of Ephesians

Chapter 5

Review

- Written by Paul around 60 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome (see Acts 28:30-31)
- Can be divided into two sections
 - The Blessings for Christians – Doctrinal – Chapters 1-3
 - The Behavior of Christians – Practical – Chapters 4-6

Chapter 5

I. Walking in Love and Light – vs. 1-21

- The previous section in chapter 4 was a contrast of walking as the “new man” in Christ and not our “old man” sinful nature. This section continues that vein of thought by exhorting the believer to live and act in righteousness.
- vs. 1 – we are to follow God’s example like a child models the behavior of their parents
- vs. 2 – the love we are to emulate is that of Christ, not of any other definition or theory.
- vs. 3-5 – the divine love we are to show is contrasted with depraved lust
 - fornication – lust of the flesh
 - impurity – lust of the heart
 - covetousness – lust of self-indulgence
 - filthiness, foolish talking, jesting – outward expressions of lustful heart – Matthew 12:33-37
- vs. 6-10 – the child of God has left the paths of sin and destruction to follow God. Why then should we continue to walk that in those ways?
- vs. 11-13 – darkness and light cannot mix. The light dispels the darkness and reveals what lurks therein.
- vs. 14 – this appears to be a paraphrase or rough translation of Isaiah 60:1-2
- vs. 15-17 – walking in awareness and wisdom and not blindly or in a stupor.
- vs. 18-21 – the effects of being filled with the Spirit: singing, thankfulness, and submitting to each other.
 - “A non-singing religion is self-condemned.” – W. Graham Scroggie

II. Walking in Matrimony – vs. 22-33

- This passage primarily deals with human marriage and begins a section of teaching on dealing with different human relationships that continues into

chapter 6. However, it does touch on some theological grounds concerning Christ and the church.

- There are 3 verses about wives and 9 about husbands. You would not realize that with how this passage is usually treated.
- God's model for marriage is that the two (husband and wife) become one (vs. 31 and Genesis 2:24) not that one is subservient to another. For the two to become one we must, however, follow the pattern laid out here and elsewhere, such as Colossians 3:18-19.
- In marriage, the connector for the wife is submitting (vs. 22) and the connector for the husband is loving (vs. 25). This connection unifies the two into one.
- The greatest responsibility is on the husband. He must model Christ's selfless and sacrificial love towards his wife.
- As Christ loved us first and most (I John 4:19), so the husband's responsibility to love is primary and that not subject to the wife's submitting.
- vs. 32 – the "mystery" is that marriage is a picture of Christ's work of salvation.