

# EPHESIANS 5

Chapter 5 covers two important themes: obedience to the example of Christ, and the relationship between husbands and wives. First, Paul discusses how believers are to be imitators of God through a focus on the love demonstrated by Christ ([Ephesians 5:1-21](#)). Second, wives and husbands are given clear biblical teachings regarding mutual love and submission in relationship to Christ ([Ephesians 5:22-33](#)).

The first section ([Ephesians 5:1-21](#)) encourages believers to imitate God like loving children ([Ephesians 5:1](#)). Sexual impurity is not to be known among believers ([Ephesians 5:3](#)). The same is true of foolish talk ([Ephesians 5:4](#)). Non-believers are marked by a persistent pattern of these behaviors ([Ephesians 5:5](#)). Believers are not to be deceived by lies ([Ephesians 5:6](#)) and must not be partners with those who deceive ([Ephesians 5:7](#)). Yes, believers once lived in this way, but are no longer walking in darkness ([Ephesians 5:8](#)).

Believers are to find out what pleases God ([Ephesians 5:10](#)). Believers should take no part in sin, but rather expose sin ([Ephesians 5:11](#)). This does not require us to be vulgar or offensive in discussing sinful acts ([Ephesians 5:12](#)). Paul then quotes from what was likely part of an early Christian song in verse 14. He encourages believers to walk with wisdom ([Ephesians 5:15](#)).

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Believers are to make the most of their time, because the days are evil ([Ephesians 5:16](#)). Paul encouraged readers to understand the will of God ([Ephesians 5:17](#)) and not become drunk on wine ([Ephesians 5:18](#)). Instead, believers are to be filled with the Spirit, praising the Lord and giving thanks to Him ([Ephesians 5:18-20](#)). Believers should also submit to one another out of respect for Christ ([Ephesians 5:21](#)).

The second part of this chapter ([Ephesians 5:22-33](#)) addresses mutual submission between husband and wife. [Ephesians 5:22-24](#) focuses first on wives. They are called to submit to their husbands as to the Lord ([Ephesians 5:22](#)), with Paul using the analogy of Christ and the church as an example ([Ephesians 5:23-24](#)).

Husbands are then addressed and called to love their wives as Christ loved the church ([Ephesians 5:25](#)). They are to love their wives as they do their own bodies, teaching that the man who loves his wife loves himself ([Ephesians 5:28](#)). Paul transitions to a reference to [Genesis 2:24](#), noting the mystery is profound between Christ and the church ([Ephesians 5:32](#)). In summary, Paul reminds husbands to love their wives as they do themselves and for wives to respect their husbands ([Ephesians 5:33](#)).



# *Ephesians*

## Theme: IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Key Scripture: "God loved us and chose us in Christ" (Eph. 1:4)

### Our Position In Christ

What God has done for us (Eph. 1:3-23)

Emphasis: Sovereignty

What Christ has done in us (Eph. 2:1-10)

Emphasis: Grace

What Christ has done between us (Eph. 2:11-3:21)

Emphasis: Reconciliation

### Practical living

Our new unity (Eph. 4:1-16)

Our new walk (Eph. 4:17-6:9)

Our new strength (Eph. 6:10-20)

Lead a life worthy of your calling." (Eph. 4:1)

### Prayers

Paul's prayer for  
the Ephesians  
(Eph. 1:15-23)

Paul's prayer for  
the whole church  
(Eph. 3:14-21)

Christians' prayers  
for one another  
(Eph. 6:18-20)

### Jesus Christ Is the Source

Jesus is the source of every spiritual blessing, the cornerstone of the church, and the standard of spiritual maturity (Eph. 1:3; 2:20; 4:11-16).

