

Outline of Ephesians 4-6

II. Living in keeping with God's eternal purpose (4:1-6:24)

A. Walk worthy of your calling (4:1-5:21)

1. Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit (4:2-16)
2. Put off the old man and put on the new man (4:17-32)
3. Imitate God and walk in wisdom (5:1-21)

B. Submission in the fear of God (5:21-6:9)

1. Wives
2. Husbands
3. Children
4. Fathers
5. Servants
6. Masters

C. Be strong in the Lord (6:10-24)

Be an Imitator of God – 5:1-14

- Walk in love – 5:1-2
- Let immorality not be named among you – 5:3-6
 - It is unbecoming and unfitting
 - It has grave consequences
- Prove what is well-pleasing to God – 5:7-10
 - Do not partake of evil
 - Walk as children of light
 - Bear the fruit of light
- Do not have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness – 5:11-14
 - They are to be reprovved
 - They are shameful
 - They are made known by the light
 - Escape from them

Instructions in 5:1-21 that Help Us Change

- 5:6 – Know the need to change
 - Some will try to convince otherwise – v.6
- 5:7 – Don't be a partaker
 - Not necessarily seeking out evil, but following along with, joining in with
- 5:8 – Desire to be light
 - Foremost, my walk is about me and God, but what kind of influence can I have for light upon others?
- 5:9 – Give effort to produce the fruit of the Spirit
 - Am I occupied with producing the fruit of goodness and righteousness toward others?
- 5:10 – When I am walking in the light and close to the Lord, I need to see and meditate upon the blessing of it. I need to acknowledge to myself and take note that I have proven the value of doing the will of the Lord.

Instructions in 5:1-21 that Help Us Change

- 5:11 – Recognize the many-faceted evil around me
 - I ought not to see it as some shade of gray but recognize the evil for what it is – no compromise
- 5:12 – See and acknowledge the shame of the sin I do not want to repeat
 - There is no joy in thinking of it or talking about it
- 5:13-14 – Seek the light - the truth
 - Two hours a week, Sunday and Wednesday, reading, hearing, thinking about the truth will not suffice. I must have spiritual longing every day.
- 5:15 – Walk circumspectly – beware of entrapments.
 - Give constant care to avoid. Look around on all sides. Watch steps carefully.
- 5:16 – Don't put off change

Instructions in 5:1-21 that Help Us Change

- 5:17 – Look to God’s wisdom with intent to implement
 - What practical wisdom do the Scriptures have to offer?
 - For example:
 - Principles of companionship
 - Good
 - Psalm 119:63
 - Proverbs 27:17
 - Proverbs 11:14
 - Bad
 - Proverbs 13:20
 - Proverbs 22:24-25
 - 1 Corinthians 15:33
 - Wine/drugs
 - Proverbs 23:31
 - Sexual sin
 - Job 31:1
 - Proverbs 5:1-8ff

Instructions in 5:1-21 that Help Us Change

- 5:17 – Desire to grow in knowledge & understanding
 - Understanding: “perceptive, reflective, and intelligent” (Caldwell)
 - The truth is the basis for the way we think, what we say, what we do
- 5:18 – Abstain from that which will dull the senses, harm the emotions, injure the body
 - We need clarity of mind and the truth from the Spirit (His word)
 - Be devoted then to that which uplifts spiritually
- 5:19-21 – the Spirit-filled life is characterized by
 - Singing
 - Thanking
 - Submitting
 - A willing, unselfish consideration of another’s needs