

Instructions to Help Christians  
Live Changed Lives

*Ephesians 5:1-21*

Ephesians 5:1-10

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. {2} And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. {3} But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as saints; {4} neither filthiness, nor foolishness, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. {5} For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any 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 be partakers with them. {8} For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light {9} (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), {10} finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

**Remember whose child you are**

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**Walk in love – a great motivator**

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**Recognize the seriousness of sin  
and thus the need to change**

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**Don't partake with sinners anymore**

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**Desire to be light**

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**Recognize and appreciate the value and blessing of being a child of light**

Ephesians 5:11-14

“**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.** {12} For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. {13} But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. {14} Therefore

He says:

‘Awake, you who sleep,  
Arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light.’”

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- ◇ Recognize and identify evil for what it is
  - ◇ It is not some shade of gray
  - ◇ Make application of its forms

Ephesians 5:11-14

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- ◇ Do not compromise with the unfruitful works of darkness
  - ◇ Cannot have just a little of it; must not have *any* part of it
  - ◇ Friendship with the world is enmity with God

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- ◇ Expose it
  - ◇ Call a spade a spade
  - ◇ Shine the light of God’s word upon it to show what it really is

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- ◇ Acknowledge the shame of the sin you do not want to repeat
  - ◇ No joy, no pleasure in speaking of them, except to teach and warn

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- ◇ Seek the light
- ◇ It is needed in order to see things the way they really are
- ◇ Two or three hours a week here will not suffice

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**He says:**

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- ◇ Don't be sluggish about being a Christian
- ◇ Allow Christ light to enlighten you by receiving His word into your thinking and doing



Ephesians 5:15-17

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,  
{16} redeeming the time, because the days are evil. {17}  
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the  
Lord is.”

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- ◇ Walk circumspectly
- ◇ In times of conflict and in peace

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,  
{16} **redeeming the time, because the days are evil.** {17}  
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the  
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- ◇ Redeem the time
- ◇ In order to buy up the opportunities, we must pay something – we have to be willing to sacrifice the lesser

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Lord is.”

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- ◇ Long for and seek God’s wisdom with the intent to implement it
- ◇ The wisdom of God is not optional!
- ◇ Believe it and make it the root and foundation of your thinking

Ephesians 5:18-21

“**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation;** but be filled with the Spirit, {19} speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, {20} giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, {21} submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

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- ◇ Abstain from that which dulls the senses, lowers the inhibitions, harms the emotions, injures the body
- ◇ That is the way of dissipation – waste

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- ◇ Be filled with the Spirit – let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom
- ◇ Be devoted to what lifts you up – the word of the Spirit

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- ◇ Live the life that is filled with the Spirit
- ◇ That life is filled with singing, thanksgiving to God, submitting to one another, and fearing God
- ◇ Christians are zealous about the new man in Christ

## Instructions to Help Christians Live Changed Lives

- ◇ Recognize and identify evil for what it is
  - ◇ Do not compromise with it
  - ◇ Go further and expose it
- ◇ Acknowledge the shame of the sin you do not want to repeat
- ◇ Seek the light
- ◇ Don't be sluggish about being a Christian
- ◇ Walk circumspectly
- ◇ Redeem the time
- ◇ Long for and seek God's wisdom with the intent to implement it
- ◇ Abstain from that which dulls the senses, lowers the inhibitions, harms the emotions, injures the body
- ◇ Be filled with the Spirit – let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom
- ◇ Live the life that is filled with singing, thanksgiving to God, submitting to one another, and fearing God