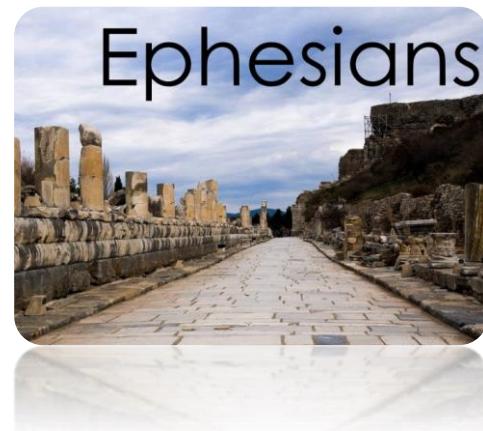


EPHESIANS 5 vs 1

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In this letter, Paul is writing about: Where we sit... where we walk... and where we stand... as members in the family of God. He is not writing new legislation; he knows legalism stops at surface performance... and never really gets to the heart of the matter. He knows 6 things God hates wherever He sees them and a seventh is an abomination -- Proverbs 6:16. So Paul is not writing new rules and regulations to follow... because he wants us to follow Jesus Christ, who wants us to grow up. And like a good runner running a race, there are things we ought to strip off and throw down; as well as things we ought to pick up and put on.



He just said, Speak truth... one to another! Can you imagine if we in the church started doing that? That would be amazing, wouldn't it?

¹ **Therefore: be followers** / the word is: **mimetes**; where we get our words: **mimic**, and **mime**. It means: **to imitate**; but don't take the word out of context; this word is only used here about imitating God. Paul said, imitate in two ways: in the way He has forgiven us, gracing us in Christ Jesus... we forgive and grace others. On this subject, I like Dr. Charles Price. He said, If you want to imitate Christ... start with His death! Adding, that usually silences most of these self-righteous people; because they aren't going to die! They just like to pretend, they like the appearance to be seen of men. Paul says...

be imitators of God as beloved children / freely gracing one another; as God in Christ freely graced you; Paul uses the same word our Father in heaven used who said: This is my beloved Son;

² **and walk in love, as Christ also loved us** / here is the second way we ought to imitate God; in our walk, our step after step, day after day: **walk in love**... keep walking and don't stop! Jesus said, the night He was betrayed: As I have loved you; you also love one another. by doing this they will know you are My disciples; My **mathetes**; the ones doing their math, putting it all together piece by piece 1 + 1 + 1.

The writer of Hebrews says, consider Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself -- **Hebrews 12:3** There is not a day Jesus lived that He could not have been wearied in thought... due to someone, perhaps many in the crowds that gathered around Him. There is not a day Jesus could not have thought: This one drives Me crazy! Or that one greatly disappointed Me... and broke My heart!

Consider Him; **He walked in love!** There is one day I read about over and over; it was such a terrible day for Him. They treated Him so badly; it says: **He hardly looked human!** It was a terrible day. But I am so thankful He didn't ask Himself that day... Should I really go to the cross? He is so different than us.

walk in love as Christ also has loved us,

and gave Himself for us... an offering and fragrant sacrifice to God.

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The King James bible says, for a sweet-smelling savor; literally, for a: **euoida osme**. Now days we could say: for a good-smelling odor; a sophisticated fragrance, a No5 Chanel; for a distinguished cologne, a Luna Rossa.

Dr. F.B. Meyer says, To our eyes the cross can only present an awful scene of horror; but to God... a love so measureless, so reckless of cost for those... who were naturally unworthy of it. And this action, this great love of Christ... fills all heaven with a wondrous fragrance. Paul says...

as Christ also has loved us, keep walking...

keep forgiving and freely gracing one another...

as His dear children.

³ But FORNICATION! / what! Where did that come from? What's that all about?

Paul is a good teacher. I think he woke up the class. Literally, he writes: **porneia**. he knows how to get the attention of all his congregation. And no, he's not throwing stones at others. He's writing to typical people in the church. So, how did he know that would be such a problem in our generation? Estimates worldwide state that **porneia**... is a 100 billion dollar industry. 2.5 billion emails are sent or received every day related to pornography. But there are only 7 billion people in the world; and most of them don't have emails; and most of them are not teenagers! So Houston, we might have a problem!

Paul says, **be imitators of God** our Father who is rich in mercy. He knows we all fall short. Paul has been saying, put off; strip off; throw down some things. He also has been saying, put on and wear some things. Don't get sucked into the course of this world wherein times past, you also walked.

But fornication / porneia,

and all uncleanness / the word is: **akatharsia**; a urinary catheter is used to drain the bladder, right? Paul is not merely talking about physical functions, but also moral and spiritual implications. As there is blindness... there is a spiritual blindness; so likewise, as there is fornication... there is a spiritual fornication. There are people that like to bleep with our minds! Paul writes...and he doesn't have time to mention all that is unclean,

or covetousness / obsessions... and **insatiable greediness**... too numerous to mention,

let it not be once named / this is one word: a continuing negative meaning:

never named, among you, as befits saints / Paul talks about what is proper for living saints in this case, God's people in Ephesus. And they were not confused; they knew all he was talking about; he is not writing to whitened tombstones full of dead bones of decomposing carcasses; So, let's hear him again...

but fornication, and all uncleanness, or greediness,

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let it not be once named among you, as befits saints;

⁴ nor filthiness / neither indecency nor obscenity,

nor foolish talking / the word is: morologia; literally, **moronic talking**... buffoonery,

nor jesting / you know the one always mocking or insulting. Really: **quick wit** that always turns negative; even those who mindlessly shout: **Can I have an Amen!** Give me an Amen! What are they talking about? What an insult to one of the names of God! Stupid talking. This word has nothing to do with being pleasant and cheerful... and even able to tell good jokes,

Paul says...

filthiness... foolish talking... mockers... insulters which do not attain, / things that do not rise to our high calling; Paul reminds us... no one, no greedy men, woman or child, who indulges in the world's crap; indulging in earth's trailer trash, will be populating God's heaven;

but rather giving thanks / we should be ever thankful to God for pulling us from the dung hill:

Paul repeats himself...

⁵ For this, be sure that no pornos / unclean person,

no covetous person, who is an idolater,

hold inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶ Let no one deceive you with vain words / hollow; empty words:

for through these things the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience / the children who are not persuaded... not convinced. In other words: the obstinate children.

⁷ So be not joint-partakers with them / from chapter 2 onward, Paul says... these aliens and acrobats stumbling around. Paul is saying you've been there, but now can be joint-heirs with Christ;

⁸ for you were previously in the dark,

but now are light in the Lord:

walk as children of light:

⁹ for the fruit of the Light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth / His goodness; His righteousness... His truth,

10 proving what is well pleasing to the Lord.

11 And have no joint-communion with the unfruitful works / works without fruit; which is the product of the course of this world... a world without God and His Spirit. They have no moral compass... it is not scientific! Greedily, angrily, hypocritically... they only produce loveless works; joyless works; works with no peace... works with no patience... absent goodness... without kindness... lacking mercy and grace. Don't associate with heartless stubborn jackasses!

but rather expose;

12 for it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret / now, what does that all mean? Well, let's read on... and pay attention! The word is: **aischron**: meaning... it is disgraceful; it is base... and dishonorable,

to say... to tell... to tattle... or gossip and snitch even to whisper; those who claim they are exposing: but Paul is first addressing those who delight in gossiping about what people do privately. In other words, Paul didn't want to know... he didn't come to judge anyone... but then, neither did Jesus!

13 But all things that are exposed are made visible by the Light / not your light; not my light:

for it is the Light of the Lord... that makes all visible.

14 Why was this said? Paul quotes the prophets who spoke for the LORD:

HE says: Awake you who sleep; rise up from the dead / He is talking to you and me: Slap yourself awake; get up dead head; and get excited!

Christ illuminates!



15 See then that you diligently walk, not as fools, but as wise / not as asophos but as sophos,

16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Why was this said? Choose your battles. Some people want to stand in the way of sinners: or sit in the seat of scoffers and critics. These are the same people who slow up on the freeway... like they have never seen an accident before. Paul wants us to keep walking!

do not be mindless, but understand what is the will of the Lord.

18 And do not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit / said a little differently: If you have to be drunk... if that is your only choice -- because drunks of any kind are obnoxious. But if that is your only option... **be drunk on the Spirit.**

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

singing and making melody / the word is: psallentes; some people say it means plucking or strumming an instrument; but that is speculative. The more important part is:



singing and making melody... in your heart to the Lord / He is our audience: God looks on the heart. Like the memorable song Jon Sherberg a great composer-friend wrote a long time ago: [So, I guess it all comes down to where your heart is](#). It's there your thoughts and feelings all begin; but if you never give your heart to Jesus -- well, check out Jon's song!

At home, at work... Paul says...

singing and making melody... in your heart to the Lord;

20 always giving thanks for all things

in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father;

21 submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God / yielding to and preferring to take the lower place; to take the lower rank; as God in Christ did for us.

[Salvation is Your Name](#) | [This is My Father's World](#)

Check out: Our Brothers and Sisters Around The World Singing GOD'S Praise: ▶ [The Songlist](#) ▶

[I'll Dance Like David](#) | [JESUS it is YOU](#) | [I Love You Yasua](#)

[The Sheep Hear His Voice And They Follow Him](#) | [The Bible & the Myth of Race.](#)

[Every Praise](#)

[O Come Let Us Adore Him](#)