

EPHESIANS 5 NOTES

What do we learn about God in this chapter?

We must first understand how HE loves us so that we can know how to love each other.

Verse one calls us to be imitators of God. We also see this call in 1 Peter 1:15-16 which is a call to be holy. (Look up holy in the dictionary ... it's super helpful to see exactly what a word means, even if you think you already know!)

Holiness is revealed by sacrificial love, purity of thought and action, and gratitude instead of greed.

In verse five, Paul mentions idolatry. We don't talk a lot about idolatry or covetousness in church today. But it is a sin issue, a serious sin issue as evidenced by its presence in four of the ten commandments (Exodus 20). Greed and sexual sin, along with so many other sinful attitudes and actions, are rooted in our desire to possess what someone else has.

In verse 15, Paul urges the Ephesians (and us!) to make the most of the time. This is translated in other version as "redeem" the time. There is an urgency here for us to take advantage of very opportunity to do good, to have the fruit of light (v. 9, also Galatians 5:22-23).

Verses 15-18 are a call to wise living. Look up Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10. What do these verses tell you about where wisdom is found? Paul wants the Ephesians to understand that the pleasures of earth (v. 18) will never truly satisfy or fill us.

Verse 19 and 20 reflect God's desire for worship and gratitude to be less things we do and more a way we live.

SUBMISSION ...

Understand that Paul is talking about the way we interact with authority. It's a tough topic and replete with opportunities for misunderstanding God and His Word. Make certain to align what you understand about verses 21-32 with everything else Scripture teaches about God's desire for our relationships with others and with Him as well as what the Bible tells us about authority in our lives.

A few notes to help:

This idea of submission begins in verse two with Paul's reminder that Christ gave Himself as a sacrificial offering for us. Take a moment to compare verse two with verse 25. What do you see?

Submission is commanded by God and modeled by Christ. But it is not demanded by others. It is our willful choice of obedience to God's authority structures in our lives and it is rooted in our desire to follow the example of humility we find in Christ (Philippians 2:5).

True submission is revealed in sacrificial support.

True love is revealed in sacrificial leadership. {See John 15:13}

The key to this is SACRIFICIAL!!

Submission is not suppression! This is not permission for misuse or abuse of any sort of power! The idea here is being arranged under a specific order for a specific purpose.

So what is the purpose?

Look at verse 32 – Marriage is the revelation of a mystery.

We reveal the divine design of Christ and the Church when we live out the divine design of marriage.