

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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Ephesians - Part 7

In chapter 5, Paul continues to emphasize love. We begin with the last two verses of chapter 4, which illustrate things that love is to replace: **Ephesians 4:31-32**: 31. *Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking (sayings that injure), be put away from you, with all malice (desire to harm):* 32. *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, [being gracious] one another, even as God [in] Christ [is gracious to] you.* (other meanings) [more accurate to the original] The Father was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself and showing His love toward humanity (2Cor 5:19).

Ephesians 5:

Verses 1-2: 1. *Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children;* 2. *And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.* To be an imitator of God is described in the following verses of how we treat people; It is putting the principle of love into action. The Son of God is our example by giving the ultimate sacrifice - his life, like the smell of a sweet odor. Think of any sacrifice you make for the good of others as bringing a pleasant feeling to God, like the sweet smell of flowers nearby creates in you. **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**: 14. *and to God [are] thanks, who at all times is leading us in triumph in the Anointed One, and the fragrance of His knowledge He is manifesting through us in every place,* 15. *because to God we are of Christ a sweet fragrance, in those being saved, and in those being lost;* 16. *to the one, indeed, a fragrance of death to death, and to the other, a fragrance of life to life; and who is sufficient for these things?* 17. *for we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God, but as out of sincerity - but as from God; in the presence of God we speak in Christ.* (A more literal translation) Through Christ we are the fruits which carry the truth He has given us. The pure, unadulterated truth is the smell of death to those who do not have ears to hear, but eternal life for those who hear and do.

Verses 3-5: 3. *But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as become saints (holy ones);* 4. *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.* 5. *For this ye*

know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Remember, we are defiled by what comes out of our mouths (Mt 15:11). So, think of these things as inward, in the heart and avoid foolish talking.

Verses 6-7: *6. Let no one deceive you with vain (empty) words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. What is meant by vain words? **Matthew 5:6:** Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled (with spiritual knowledge). Compare this with **Luke 1:53:** He hath filled the hungry with good things (understanding); and the rich (in their own opinions) he hath sent away (spiritually) empty. Opinions, which are solely from man, leave the soul empty of the concepts needed to sustain spiritual life.*

The result is that people are disobedient to the principles of life, and the wrath is in them. God's wrath is His turning away because they refuse to retain and apply God's knowledge in their lives (Rom 1:28). This same idea is expressed in symbolic language in **Revelation 14:8:** *And there followed another angel (messenger), saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city (corrupted mind-set), because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.* Babylon (confusion about God) falls in the righteous, who, like the wicked also drank of the wine (teachings) of her spiritual fornication, but had ears to hear and came out of the confusion.

Verses 8-10: *8. for ye were once darkness, and now light in the Lord; as children of light walk ye, 9. for the fruit of the Spirit [is] in all goodness, and righteousness, and truth, 10. proving what is well-pleasing (acceptable KJ) to the Lord (YLT). "Well-pleasing" implies a "sweet smell." The fruit of the Spirit of God is opposite to the fruit of the spirit of man, and evidence that you are walking in the light. **1 John 1:7:** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin. We are only cleansed by the blood of the cross when we walk in the light (understanding) of the cross as the Father is in the light.*

Verses 11-13: *11. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Think about what is being said here! The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal 5:22-23). The fruits of those walking in the darkness of false teachings will manifest the works of the flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness,*

lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulation, wrath, strife, sedition, heresies, envy, murder, drunkenness, reveling, and such like (Gal 5:19-21). Again, while outward, these things begin in the heart. How do we “reprove” someone? By giving them the truth. Let them know that what they are doing is causing them to die spiritually, and leading to a permanent death.

Verses 14-16: 14. *Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleep, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.* 15. *See then that ye walk circumspectly (carefully), not as fools, but as wise,* 16. *Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.* Are our days evil? Do you see things as getting better, or worse? There is no time to waste - we need to get ready ourselves, so that we can help others to get ready also. **Romans 13:11-14**: 11. *And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.* 12. *The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.* 13. *Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering (cohabitation) and wantonness (sexual immorality), not in strife and envying.* 14. *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.* No one knows how much time they have. Live today as if Jesus Christ will come tomorrow.

Verses 17-20: 17. *Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.* 18. *And be not drunk with wine (false teaching), wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;* 19. *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Seek the Lord as to His will for you, and be filled with His knowledge (Spirit). Psalms are the similar to hymns, as they are set to music. A spiritual song is your experience, which is to be rehearsed in your minds and as encouragement to each other. (See Ex 15:1-21 a song of deliverance).* 20. *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Amen.*

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