

# Ephesians Part 12: Walk as Children of Light Part 1 *Ephesians 5:1-10*



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*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

<sup>2</sup> *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

<sup>3</sup> *But*

*sexual immorality and all impurity  
or covetousness*

*must not even be named among you,  
as is proper among saints.*

<sup>4</sup> *Let there be*

*no filthiness*

*nor foolish talk nor crude joking,*

*which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

<sup>5</sup> *For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is*

*sexually immoral*

*or impure,*

*or who is covetous (that is, an idolater),*

*has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

<sup>6</sup> *Let no one deceive you with empty words,*

*for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of  
disobedience.*

<sup>7</sup> *Therefore do not become partners with them;*

<sup>8</sup> *for at one time you were darkness,*

*but now you are light in the Lord.*

*Walk as children of light* <sup>9</sup> *(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and  
right and true),* <sup>10</sup> *and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

## **Introduction: Review - Ephesians 4:22-24**

a. **Put off:** *to put off the old self*

- You put off your old self like a piece of dirty old clothing

b. **Renew your Mind:** *to be renewed in the spirit of your minds*

- True change is not just a change of behavior but a change of your mind from the world's thinking to God's thinking

c. **Put on:** *to put on the new self*

- You put on the new self like fresh new clothing
- You live according to your new identity in God's likeness

**Ephesians Part 12:**  
**Walk as Children of Light Part 1**  
*Ephesians 5:1-10*

**1. Be Imitators of God (1-2)**

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.*

<sup>2</sup> *And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,  
a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- a. Imitate God like beloved children imitate their parents
  - Your imitation of God reflects a deep knowledge and experience of God, your Father
  - The more time you spend with God in prayer and Scripture, the more you will imitate him
- b. Walk in love, like Christ loved you and gave himself as a sacrifice
  - Your love is not simply a feeling, but an act of sacrifice that imitates Jesus, where you sacrifice your needs and desires for the sake of others

**2. Put off Sexual Immorality (Gr. “Porneia”) (3)**

<sup>3</sup> *But*

*sexual immorality and all impurity  
or covetousness*

*must not even be named among you,  
as is proper among saints.*

- a. Put off Sexual Immorality and all impurity
  - Gr. “Porneia” refers to sexual activity outside of marriage between a husband and wife
  - God loves sex within marriage, but not outside of it
  - Jesus taught that lust is like adultery – Matthew 5:27-28
- b. Put off Covetousness
  - Why covetousness? – it involves a strong desire for something that does not belong to you (ie someone else’s body who is not your husband or wife)
- c. These things should not be named among God’s saints

**3. Put off Talk of Sexual Immorality (4a)**

<sup>4</sup> *Let there be*

*no filthiness  
nor foolish talk nor crude joking,  
which are out of place,*

- a. Put off filthiness (vulgar speech, obscenity)
- b. Put off foolish talk and crude joking (sexual innuendo, sexual jokes)

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**4. Put on Thanksgiving (4b)**

*but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

- a. Sexual Immorality and Sexual Talk is replaced with Thanksgiving
  - Instead of coveting other's bodies, thank God for blessings

**5. Three Reasons to abstain from Sexual Immorality and Talk (5-10)**

<sup>5</sup> *For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral*

*or impure,*

*or who is covetous (that is, an idolater),*

*has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

<sup>6</sup> **Let no one deceive you with empty words,**

*for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

<sup>7</sup> *Therefore do not become partners with them;*

<sup>8</sup> *for at one time you were darkness,*

*but now you are light in the Lord.*

*Walk as children of light* <sup>9</sup> *(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),* <sup>10</sup> *and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.*

- a. Those who practice sexual sin will not inherit the kingdom of God
- b. You risk the wrath of God when you persist in sexual sin
- c. You are no longer darkness, you are now light in the Lord
  - *Walk as children of light*

**6. What Should you do if you are Struggling with Sexual Sin?**

- a. Commit yourself to the Lord's ways regarding sexuality
  - Ask the Lord to give you strength
  - Train your eyes, feet, mind & heart in self-control and purity
- b. Confess your sin to God and ask forgiveness – He will forgive you!
- c. Flee sexual temptation
  - *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. 1 Corinthians 6:18*
- d. Seek Relational Intimacy
  - In Christ
  - In Christian friendships
- e. Treat fellow believers as brothers and sisters (1 Timothy 5:1-2)
- f. If you are unmarried and are struggling to stay pure with the person you are dating, get married *1 Corinthians 7:9,36*
  - Date believers who share your commitment to purity

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## Your Response

1. Ask God to renew your mind to think like He does. Pray and read His Word to help in the process! Repent of any sin in your life.

2. **Will you receive salvation in Jesus: a free gift of God, by faith?**

- Believe in Jesus, and His death and resurrection
- Repent of your sin and place your trust in Jesus
- Commit to Jesus as Lord of your life

*because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

## Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ

April 23	Part 12: Walk as Children of the Light Part 1
April 30	Part 13: Walk as Children of the Light Part 2
May 7	Part 14: Walk as Children of the Light Part 3

## Recommended Reading

1. Love, Sex and Lasting Relationships by Chip Ingram
2. Sacred Sex by Tony Evans
3. The Purity Principle by Randy Alcorn
4. God Loves Sex by Dan Allender & Tremper Longman III
5. Intended for Pleasure by Ed Wheat & Gaye Wheate

## Questions for Reflection

1. What is God's three-part change process (See today's introduction)
2. How does our culture's approach to sexuality differ from God's?
3. Why do you think sexual sin and coveting are listed together in this passage?
4. Do you find it hard to refrain from sexual innuendo and humour? Pray and ask the Lord to help you replace it with thanksgiving.
5. Discuss the three reasons for abstaining from sexual sin (Point #5).
6. How can you break free if you are struggling with sexual sin? (Point #6)
7. Have you responded to the God's grace in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?

**2 Cor. 6:2b** *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*