

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

How to Live for God

Ephesians 5:1-6

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 4, 2025

I. You Better Know Who You Are

A. You Are Loved By God

Ephesians 5:1 "... beloved children."

You're not just a child of God. You're a beloved child of God!

B. You Are Right With God

Ephesians 5:2 "...Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

Jesus offered Himself up and fulfilled every obligation that we owed God, so that God is now completely satisfied in us because of Him!

Whenever God looks at you or thinks about you, all He sees, smells, hears, and tastes is the absolute, perfect, unending sweetness of His Son. That's what it means to be in Christ as a beloved child of God!

Romans 8:1-4, 38-39 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit... ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

God loves you and nothing can separate you from His love because it is found in Christ Jesus who does not change!

II. You Better Know There's A Fight

Titus 2:11-14 "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good."

"There are thousands of men and women who go to church every Sunday and call themselves Christians... but you never see any 'fight' about their religion! Of spiritual strife, and exertion, and conflict, and self-denial, and watching, and warring, they know literally nothing at all...The saddest symptom about many so-called Christians is the utter absence of anything like conflict or fight...All true saints are soldiers. A real Christian can be known as much by his inward warfare as by his inward peace. This inner warfare, a fight against sin and temptation, is a significant part of their spiritual journey and a mark of their authenticity as a follower of Christ."

~ J.C. Ryle, *Holiness*

The peace we have with God causes us to go to war with sin, both inside us and around us. We have a new desire to fight against sin.

Some Christians stay stuck in the same place, wallowing around in the same sin, because they don't actively engage in the process of pursuing holiness and putting to death sin in their life. Effort is not a bad word, but a very biblical word when you start talking about how to live the Christian life.

A. You'll Have To Fight For Sexual Purity

Ephesians 5:3 "... sexual immorality and all impurity... must not even be named among you..."

He uses the Greek word "Porneia" that encompassed a broad range of sexual sins and basically anything that takes this good gift and tries to use it outside the realm of a committed relationship between a husband and wife.

God designed sexual purity to be one of the things His children are known for. It should be one of the things that sets us apart.

B. You'll Have To Fight To Be Content

Ephesians 5:3 "... covetousness must not even be named among you..."

That word "covetousness" is the Greek word "Pleonexia" that meant a strong and constant craving for more.

This constant craving is what so often robs us of joy because it takes our eyes off of God, off of His love, and off of our identity in Christ and fixes them on our circumstances and the circumstances of others that we think have it so much better.

When you read your Bible, it's a wake-up call that it's not about what you have, but Who has you and Who holds your future because when you know Who holds your tomorrow, you don't have to covet what others have today.

C. You'll Have To Fight To Control Your Mouth

Ephesians 5:4 "Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking..."

1. You Could Be Guilty Of Foolish Gutter Talk

"Foolish talk" – Greek word "Morologia" that's comprised of "Moron" and "Logos," so that it means stupid, dull, and crass.

2. You Could Be Guilty Of Clever Or Witty Sexual Innuendos

"Crude joking" – Greek word "Eutrapalia" that literally means "able to turn easily." In other words, someone who is quick-witted and able to easily turn a word or conversation in a different direction and connect it to something dirty or sexual.

III. You Better Know How To Fight

A. Live In Light Of Who You Are

That's what Paul's pressing on them when he says that sexual perversion, verbal garbage, and the unending chase after more is not proper and is completely out of place among saints.

Ephesians 5:3 "... must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."

Ephesians 5:4 "... are out of place..."

Live like who you are – a child of God, a saint, and a blood-bought son or daughter. Be who He already made you to be!

1 John 3:1-3 "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. ²Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

When you know you're a child of God who's been lavished with the love of the Father, bought with a price, adopted into God's family, filled with God's Spirit, and given an inheritance equal with Jesus Christ, you don't want to go on willfully sinning!

The word "hope" in **v. 3** is a confident expectation of future blessing based on the character and promises of God. Hope motivates you to change!

Knowing where you're headed and what you're going to be changes how you live now because it motivates you to prepare for it.

B. Live Like You're Not Home Yet

Ephesians 5:5 "... the kingdom of Christ and God."

That's what we're a part of now and it's where we're headed for eternity! Which means we live loose to the things of this world.

1 Peter 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."

Peter describes us as sojourners and exiles. We're just passing through and we don't belong here. This is not our home.

He warns us not to get tangled up in the lusts of the flesh because it wages war against our souls and it deceives us into living as if right-here-right-now is what matters most and that's a wicked, vicious, and life-altering lie.