

War of the Worlds

Studies in Ephesians

All That You Can Be

Introduction to Ephesians 5:1-21

The U.S. Army uses the slogan, "be all that you can be", to recruit those who want to fulfill their potential in life, a goal almost everyone is seeking to achieve. Similarly, Christ's teachings promise the most out of life for those who are willing to follow them. In Ephesians 5:1-21, Paul, by the Spirit, outlines three standards of lifestyle for God's people to follow if they are to fulfill the potential Christ has for them. The first standard is to walk in love. This is consistent with the "great commandment" that Jesus taught, which was to love God and love one's neighbor. This standard is also in step with Jesus' lifestyle, who gave Himself up for His people, to be an pleasing sacrifice to God, His Father. However, we must not only live a life of love, we must also walk in the

light if we are to experience the most life has to offer. This thinking is contrary to that of the world, which practices the "dark" acts of immorality, impurity, greed, filthy talk, and idolatry. Those who walk in the light replace these behaviors with the giving of thanks, goodness, righteousness and truth. When they do, they expose the actions of darkness, and produce fellowship with Christ, who shines His light on those who have been brought to life by Him. Finally, in order to experience our full potential in life, we must walk in wisdom. This type of living is characterized by an effective use of our time because of the evil nature of the age in which we live. Whereas many spend their time getting



**The war is on...
are you ready?**

"drunk" in various ways, the fulfilled believer understands that the will of the Lord is to be intoxicated by God's Spirit. When this occurs we will exhibit joyful expressions such as praising God to one another, heartfelt singing to Him, giving thanks to Him for all things, and voluntarily subjecting our needs to those of others out of respect for Christ, who did the same thing. When we do these things, we will be "all that we can be".

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God's pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God's family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 5:1-21

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources](http://www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader_resources))

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| 1. Read 5:1-2. What should characterize our lives as God's children (v2), and why (v1). How did Christ set this example (v2)? | |
| 2. From 5:3-4 list and explain 6 things for which God's people should not be known. What should we do instead (v4b), and why do you think this is so? | |
| 3. According to 5:5-6, when a person gives themselves over to a life of immorality, impurity and greed, what are they really (v5)? What are the consequences for such a person (v5-6)? | |

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Ephesians 5:1-21 Study Questions (cont)

4. In 5:7-10 how should we relate to the disobedient (v7), and why (v8)? What should we do instead (v8, 10), and what will result (v9)?

5. Based on 5:11-12 what is the outcome of “deeds of darkness” (v11)? What should our approach be to them (v11), and why (v12)?

6. From 5:13-14 what are the steps to walking in the light (v14b, 14c)? When we walk in Christ’s light what will happen to the things done in darkness? Apply this to your life.

7. Read 5:15-16. By what standard should we strive to live (v15)? How would you define this? What is the result of living by this standard (v16)?

8. According to 5:17-18 what are we commanded positively (v17, 18), and negatively (v17, 18)? In your own words, how can you do the positive commands? Do you think they are connected?

9. Looking at 5:19-20 what practices do those who are filled with the Spirit consistently do? Practically speaking, how can these be done?

10. From 5:21 how are we to relate to each other (v21a), and what does this mean? Why should we do this (v21b)?

11. Summarize what it would look like for you to walk in love, to walk in the light, and to walk in wisdom each day. Be as specific as possible.

Scripture to Remember

“The fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth, trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”
Ephesians 5:9-10

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Life Group Questions—Ephesians 4:7-16

(Using questions based on today’s message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Ask anyone who has ever had a mentor or personal trainer to share about that experience. What is so great about having someone to “teach you the ropes”?
2. The source of our gifts is God’s grace. What is gracious about the fact that God has given each one of us a spiritual gift?
3. Discuss how extreme the sacrifice was that Christ made to give each of us a spiritual gift. What does that tell us about using our spiritual gifts in the body?
4. List the 4 equipping gifts. Why did God give these 4 gifts to the Body, and what is the ultimate purpose for all of our gifts? Apply this to your group.
5. Talk about how the Body is to become mature in stature (4:13), in stability (4:14), and in speech (4:15). How can you help each other in this process?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.