



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 6 - Day 2

Approaching God

Read John 15:9-11 - *"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."*

Prayer: Be still and quiet yourself. Take a few minutes to focus on God and to shut out distractions. Offer a simple prayer to start your time using the truth and promises in John 15. What promise does Jesus want his disciples to understand about God's love? What is the deep desire God has for his children as disciples of Jesus? Ask God to help you discover his love and joy more deeply today as you meet with Him.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Ephesians 5:1-21

Passage Introduction: *In Ephesians 5, Paul gives general instructions for holy living. He focuses on purity of life—both by avoiding evil deeds and associations and by adopting holy practices. This is a helpful passage to consider as it reinforces and expands on the exhortations in 1 Peter 4:3. In your study today, try to compare & contrast how Paul & Peter talk about what it means to live a holy life in Christ Jesus*

Ephesians 5:1-21 - **1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. **2** And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **3** But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. **4** Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. **5** 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. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. **7** Therefore do not become partners with them; **8** for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. **12** For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. **13** But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, **14** for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but

be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

Questions for Study

- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about God in this passage? The Father, Son, or Holy Spirit?
- What are 2 or 3 things you observe about people, you, or your neighbor in this passage?
- Look up 1 Peter 4:3 from yesterday’s study. Try to note every way that Paul reinforces or expands on Peter’s exhortation in 4:3?

In 1 Peter 4:3, Peter said: “for the time is past for doing what the Gentiles want to do...”

In Ephesians 5:1-21, Paul said:

In 1 Peter 4:3, Peter said: “living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties and lawless idolatry.

In Ephesians 5:1-21, Paul said:

Questions for Meditation & Application

- How have you experienced others being surprised for what you won’t join them in doing? How does this passage help you to deal well with those moments?
- What sinful patterns do you need to cease that you have given “sufficient time” to in the past? (1 Peter 4:3)

Close in Prayer:

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18 and spend some time in prayer asking God to help you arm yourself against any particular sin he’s brought to mind.

Resources for Further Study

Ephesians 5 commentary & study notes - ESV Gospel Transformation Bible

Commentary & Notes on Ephesians 5:1-21

Eph. 5:1-2 - “Therefore...” - Paul’s discussion of love serves also as an introduction to further instructions on holy living (vv. 3–20). **“Imitators”** - Believers are to imitate God’s holiness in all of their conduct. They are to be like him, not as slaves trying to earn a wage but as children—and beloved children at that! loved. The past tense does not suggest that Christ has *stopped* loving us but only that, when he gave himself up for us, it was the supreme act of his love (see John 15:13).

Eph. 5:3-14 - Paul grounds this series of moral imperatives (chiefly regarding sexual purity) in two realities: our present identity in Christ, and the future judgment of Christ. Regarding the former, Paul tells the Ephesians to act as saints (v. 3) and to walk as children of light (v. 8). Concerning the latter, he admonishes them based on the coming wrath of God (v. 6) and the coming light of Christ (vv. 13–14). Both realities (present identity and future judgment) are connected to the gospel.

The gospel connects to our present identity because it is the good news of our changed allegiance; the gospel connects to future judgment because it gives a gracious warning for those who profess the lordship of Christ with their mouths but deny him by their works (Matt. 7:21–23; Titus 1:16). Grace covers all the sin of those who trust in the finished work of Jesus upon the cross. Judgment does not await those who are united to Christ, but an unrepentant life turned from God has no assurance of that union.

Eph. 5:15-18 - Because we live in dark times, we need frequent reminders to wake up (v. 14) and to watch out (v. 15). This means discerning what is pleasing to the Lord (v. 10) and walking in countercultural obedience to him: not unwise, but wise (v. 15); not foolish, but understanding (v. 17); not drunk on wine, but filled with the Spirit (v. 18). The world wants to press us into its mold (Rom. 12:2), but we have been given a different pattern.

While the wrath of God is not in the future for any true believer, we should not presume that ungodly pursuits will have no effect upon us or our loved ones. God loves us enough to tell us of the safe path of godliness, and he loves us enough to warn us of the consequences of wandering from that path.

Eph. 5:19-21 - Paul explains the “filling” in verse 18 with four participles in verses 19–21. To be under the sway of the Spirit (instead of intoxicated by strong drink) leads to speaking in song, singing in your heart, giving thanks to God, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Not everyone submits to everyone, but all are called to submit to the proper authorities in their lives—and all are called to live sacrificially for the sake of others in their lives (v. 2), a theme that will get much expression in the following verses, even for those in authority. Being “Spirit-filled” has less to do with spontaneity and exuberance, and more to do with living a life marked by the ordinary and glorious fruit of the Spirit (cf. Gal. 5:22–23).