

Living the Christian Life

Ephesians 5:1-21

NLAC 5.25.08 hfd

1. (5:1-3) It is a life of **love** – God’s kind of love: *Love is the overflow of joy in God which causes us to give sacrificially to meet the needs of others.*
2. (5:3) It is a life of **sexual purity** – of avoiding all immorality.
3. (5:3) It is a life of **contentment, not greed**; It is a life of peace and joy due to the fact that the thirst of our souls is being satisfied in Christ Jesus, the Spring of Living Water; It is not a life of covetousness and discontentment (the result of digging broken cisterns).
The Basic Lie: God and what he chooses to provide is not enough.
The Basic Truth: God and what he chooses to provide is absolutely sufficient through Christ Jesus to live a life of joy, meaning, contentment and hope in all circumstances.
4. (5:4) It is a life of **controlling the tongue** (by having a transformed mind and heart) so that only appropriate and good things are said.
5. (5:5-14) It is **not being deceived into living like the lost** (loving idols and digging broken cisterns); Those who live to “party” will spend eternity in hell. It is **living like children of light (seeking to please the Lord)** and avoiding the darkness and emptiness that characterize the lost of the world.
6. (5:15-21) It is **living carefully in wisdom and not being foolish**; This means that we will live each day as an opportunity to glorify God and will seek to know and obey God’s will as it is revealed in His Word. Our primary purpose in life is to glorify God and we must know and obey his will in order to do that. Knowing God’s will requires regular Bible reading, study and meditation.
7. (5:18) It is a life of **sobriety**.
8. (5:18) It requires **being filled with the Holy Spirit**; We simply cannot live a consistent Christian life with the right motives by our own effort.
 1. **Pray in humility and brokenness...confessing all known sin...in complete surrender to the Lord.**
(Ps. 51:17; Jas. 4:6b-10). Confess all known sin and ask for help in overcoming sin in your life. Choose to die to self-will. Surrender to the Lord without reservation. Put God first in your life – before anything or anyone else.
 2. **Pray with thanksgiving for all that Christ has accomplished on your behalf.**
Praise the Lord for choosing you. Thank Him for your salvation in Christ Jesus. Believe that Jesus Christ has provided victory over sin for you. You have been blessed beyond measure. God has promised to keep on blessing you for all eternity beyond what you can even imagine.
 3. **Pray in faith and ask to be filled to overflowing with God.**
Ask the Lord to quench the thirst of your soul. Ask Him to fill you with the Spirit. Believe Jesus is all you need and take Him as your sanctifier. Appropriate the riches that are yours in Christ Jesus. Live each day by faith in Jesus Christ.
9. (5:19-20) It means that we will regularly worship with our church family – **singing and giving thanks to the Lord**.
10. (5:21) It is a life of **submission to one another**; This means that we will be humble, thoughtful, considerate, gentle, forgiving and compassionate with each other. It means that we will not be controlling or demanding with each other.