

EPHESIANS

Chapter 5:1 - 16

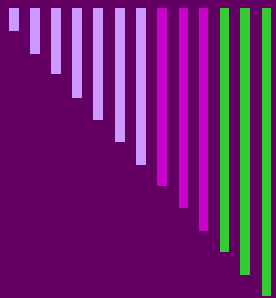
Jim Hoffman



Eph 5:1-2

5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. NASB

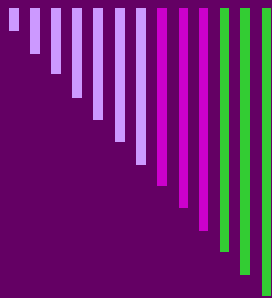
- Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the likeness of his Son*, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. NIV
- This is our calling, this is our mission, and this is the definition of a sanctified life to be like Jesus!
- Eph 4:24 and to put on the new self, *created to be like God* in true righteousness and holiness. NIV



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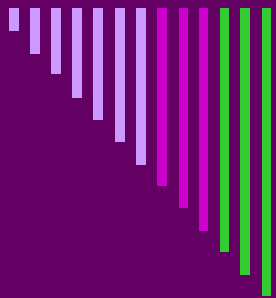
- We are never more spiritual than we are when we behave, think, and prioritize as Jesus did.
 - Rooted in Jesus is where all true ministry begins and ends.
 - It begins with Christ at work in us and it ends with us casting our crowns at His feet.
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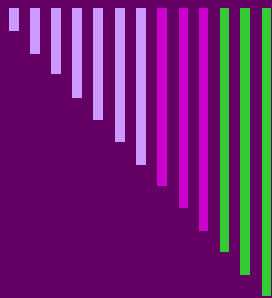
- 1 John 4:17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have *confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.*
NIV
- All of this of course begs this question; where and how does one begin to imitate God?
- Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How *unsearchable* are His judgments and *unfathomable* His ways! NASB



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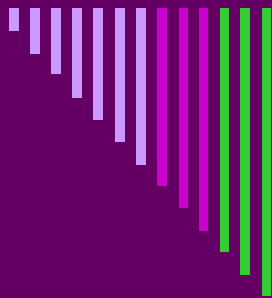
- The answer to ‘where do we begin’ is of course, we begin with Jesus.
- We have the record of His life in the gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles.
- Jesus was unconventional, controversial, unpopular, confrontational, and politically incorrect. (you want to be master, serve!, you want to be first, be last!, you want to keep, give!)



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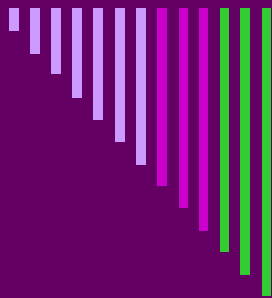
- Very much like a family we imitate our father best when we are like our big brother.
 - We cannot begin to relate to being like an invisible God whom we have not seen, but we have seen Jesus.
 - As we study Jesus we begin to see what it means to be **a child of God** from **the Son of God**.
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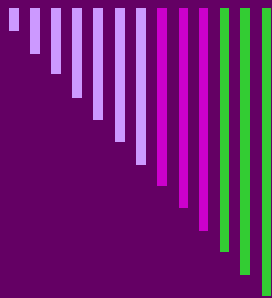
- First and foremost Jesus was a lover of people, all of us.
 - He was gentle to some and harsh with others, depending on the need of those he was dealing with, but still acted at all times in love.
 - He had no ego, no rights, no possessions, no money, and, at one point, almost no friends.
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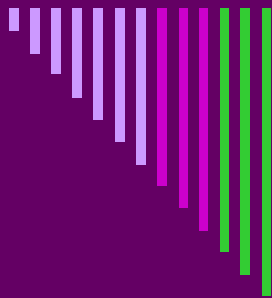
- He *loved the unlovely* and was not afraid to *touch the untouchable*.
- He was more about *being a friend* than he was about *having friends*.
- He was the ultimate giver and taker all at once; *He gave us life, and took our sin*.



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- He was the perfect blend of social reformer and spiritual transformer. He knew that meeting physical needs opens doors to meeting spiritual needs.
 - He was powerful enough to still storms and lift Peter out of the water with one hand, yet so gentle that little children ran to him and not from him.
 - He cared for the rich, and he cared for the poor. There was none too high and none too low for Him. He never let temporary conditions like 'status' cloud his vision of people.
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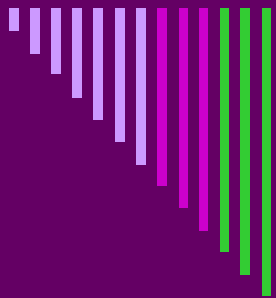
- So how do we begin to imitate God? We imitate Jesus.
 - We are *called to be like Him*, *helped to be like Him*, *encouraged to be like Him* and even *rewarded to be like Him*.
 - To over simplify, we are called to love. If we love we are like Him. (1st Corinthians 13)
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Eph 5:3

But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; NASB

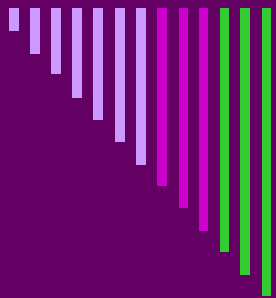
- This begins a section of the letter that deals with some more things for the believer to avoid.
 - As we go through these “don’ts” I want us to focus on the “why” that is behind these commands.
 - It is good for us, and it is good for the world when Christians conduct themselves in a way that pleases God.
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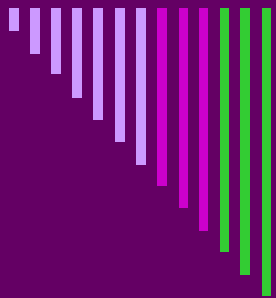
- “The best hope our world has is not new programs, but new people”. (James Montgomery Boyce)
- Matt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. NKJV
- When we stop living like the world and start living like Jesus we make a difference in our world and we validate the gospel’s power.



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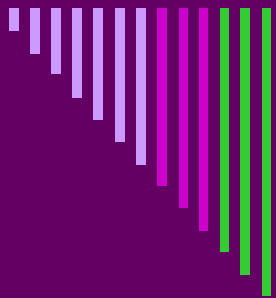
- ❑ Holiness is not something that we set out to do by sheer force of will; rather a holy life is more the unveiling of what God has already done in us.
- ❑ We have been made holy (Heb 10:10) and the holiness he has given us is to be unveiled in our lives. (Heb 10:14)
- ❑ How often we quench the Spirit simply by suppressing our desire for holiness because we are too ashamed to live for Him.



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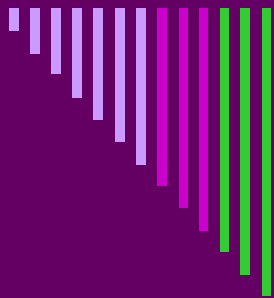
- A higher standard is set, these things are not to be even mentioned in connection with us.
 - Very much like Jesus set a higher standard for keeping the commandments Paul now sets a higher standard for Christian behavior.
 - Example; Jesus took do not commit adultery to don't even think about it.
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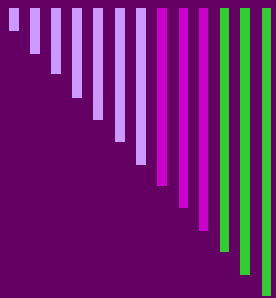
- ❑ Immorality here deals primarily with sexual sins.
- ❑ It's not first because it's the worst or even the most prominent, but it is probably first because of its devastating effect on individuals and society.
- ❑ A person gets caught up in sexual sins; the outcome can be a broken marriage, a broken home, confused and insecure children who grow up to be husbands and wives themselves who are still hurting.



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- ❑ Impurity; how is this different from immorality?
- ❑ Paul probably had prostitution and homosexuality in mind as impure practices. The fact is that brothels were established to raise money to build temples to the goddess of love, Aphrodites.
- ❑ In our day the homosexual community has reached new heights in it's quest for acceptance in our culture. They will not be satisfied until the church says it's OK.



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- ❑ Greed is mentioned here right along side of adultery, prostitution, homosexuality and other sins of the flesh.
 - ❑ We would probably not see it as bad as those behaviors, but it seems that God does. 
 - ❑ Greed is in itself a destructive behavior because it keeps us from expressing love and controls our priorities.
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Eph 5:4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. NASB

- Such things should barely need mentioned to the church as plain ole common sense should be sufficient to rid these from our lives.
 - These would be the lowest forms of humor that are all too common in our day.
 - Paul says that such talk just doesn't fit in with what we are in Christ.
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Eph 5:5

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. NASB

- Strong language for us to consider. Does Paul mean that if I ever did any of these that I am disqualified for heaven?
- No, what he is saying is that if these things generally describe your life then you are not saved.
- I am convinced that I am saved by grace and I am equally convinced that if I have been raised from being dead in my sins that my life must reflect it, or it simply is not true.



Eph 5:6

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. NASB

- Being saved is simple, don't let anyone complicate it for you.
- For example, you know that your new man wants to do right and it is the old man who seeks sin.
- Do not fall for enticing claims that claim there can be salvation without repentance.



Eph 5:7-8

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light NASB

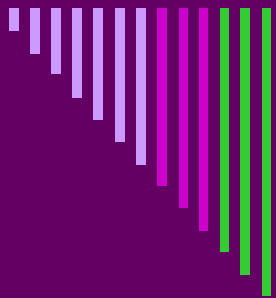
- If we are children of the light then we need to live like it.
- Throughout the letter we have seen things like we were chosen, we were called, we are to live a life worthy of our calling and so on
- There are many in our world who would like to know if Jesus makes a difference. We have an opportunity to show them by the lives that we live that Jesus works!



Eph 5:11

And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;
NASB

- Now we come to a general, but very powerful command; expose the works of the flesh for what they are they are distortions of the truth.
- The world takes a gift of God like sex and makes it into something dirty and destructive.
- What God intended to deepen the most intimate relationship on earth the world has dragged through the mud. We need to expose that lie for what it is.



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- The world tells us that whoever dies with the most possessions wins, but that too is a distortion of what God intended for good.
- God intends that we enjoy the fruits of our labors and the gifts that he gives.
- If we have a lot we are to share and in so doing give testimony that we are only passing through.
- There is nothing wrong with having a lot, it's only wrong if we keep a lot.



Eph 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. NIV

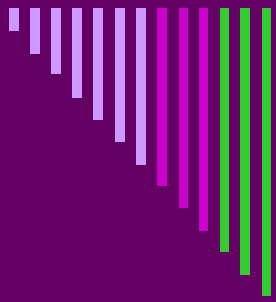
- We have so much responsibility and so many challenges We need to pay attention and be careful.
- We need to understand what is at stake, our testimony and eternal souls.
- The only way the people around us will get into the kingdom is if the citizens of the kingdom invite them in.



Eph 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. NIV

- We do for a fact live in evil times, but they are also filled with opportunities.
 - We need to be on guard, but also on the attack. We need to move forward and keep taking ground.
 - The work can be hard, but we are not alone.
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What do you think?
