



## KNOWING CHRIST

Lessons from Paul's Life and Ministry

### LIVING IN CHRIST

Ephesians 5:1-33

Inductive Discovery Lesson 12

Here's a question for you. Is it imitation...or the real thing? We aren't talking handbags or sunglasses. "Therefore," Paul wrote, "be imitators of God..." Paul's idea of imitation was very different from the impression that word raises in our designer knock-off culture. For an ex-Pharisee like Paul, appearances meant nothing—he was looking for people who carried the authentic love of God into all their relationships.

Paul was keenly aware of the pressures his Ephesian readers faced. They lived in a city that offered everything it takes, humanly speaking, to live the good life. Business and pleasure kept Ephesus humming. The city sat at the intersection of every major trade route—an ambitious man could grow wealthy here. Tourists came for the sports, the arts and theater, and of course the goddess Diana Artemis. The "Lady of Ephesus" was the personification of beauty, worshipped for her sensual power as the mother of all life. Her temple was magnificent, named by *people who knew* as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Yes, Ephesus had it all. Beautiful streets filled with beautiful people oozing sophistication and influence, pursuing happiness in the dark.

Paul cautioned his Christian friends not to let old habits and attitudes creep back into their life. Then, as now, it was all too easy to relax into a kind of *christianity lite* instead of walking as children of Light. Don't let this happen to you, Paul warned.

You are a woman with influence whether you realize it or not. What do you want to carry into your relationships? Before you turn the page to begin your study, let the urgency of Paul's advice sink in...

"Live life, then, with a due sense of responsibility, not as those who do not know the meaning or purpose of life but as *those who do*. Make the best use of your time, despite all the difficulties of these days. Don't be vague [shallow, casual] but firmly grasp what you know to be the will of the Lord."

Ephesians 5:15-17 Phillips Translation

## **Working Text for Ephesians 5:1-33**

New American Standard (NAS)

**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.

**3** But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints; **4** and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. **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.

**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 be partakers with them; **8** for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light **9** (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), **10** trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. **11** Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; **12** for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. **13** But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. **14** For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

**15** Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, **16** making the most of your time, because the days are evil. **17** So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; **20** always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; **21** and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

**22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. **24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, **26** so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **27** that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. **28** So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; **29** for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, **30** because we are members of His body. **31** For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. **32** This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. **33** Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must see to it that she respects her husband.



**Use the second column to record information you gather from other sources** such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down **your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind**. *Do your best to follow Paul's train of thought.* Does he emphasize a particular topic? Are his words urgent? Encouraging? Commanding? What issues or problems does he address? What questions does he ask?

## Ephesians 5:1-14

### My Research and Personal Observations:

4

## Ephesians 5:15-21

Facts from the passage:

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper designed for handwriting practice. It features two vertical columns of horizontal lines. Each column contains ten rows of three dashed lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of each column.

## Ephesians 5:22-33

Facts from the passage:

Facts from the passage:

### My Research and Personal Observations:

[illegible]

## Key Words and Phrases

Key words and phrases help us understand the main point the writer wants to make. How do we recognize key words and phrases? Here are some simple things to look for.

- When you see a word or phrase repeated, you can be sure Paul is using it to make his point.
- If you are unfamiliar with a word or its meaning, it becomes a key word *for you*. Take time to learn the definition so you will understand how it is being used in the sentence.

List any key words and phrases you found in Ephesians 5:1-33

---

---

---

---

Write the definition of the following words or phrases. Use a regular dictionary or a concordance with a Greek Dictionary if you have one.

“be **imitators** of God” (vs.1) \_\_\_\_\_

---

“do not be **partakers** with them” (vs.7) \_\_\_\_\_

---



## INTERPRETATION — *What does it mean?*

**Look for a spiritual lesson.** Be careful not to read into the Bible an idea that is not there. Examine each verse in light of the verses around it. To help you find a spiritual lesson, ask questions such as: “Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to that promise? Is there a warning to heed? Is there an example to follow or avoid?” **State the lesson in one simple sentence.**

## APPLICATION — *How does it apply to me?*

We don’t study the Bible just to gather information—we want to spiritually grow. Our heart needs to be open to change. The only way to move truth off the pages of your Bible and into your life is to **put it into action.**

To apply a spiritual lesson, we must examine ourselves and take deliberate steps to do something with what we have learned. Ask yourself: Is this a new insight for me, or does it reinforce what I already know? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? What changes does it require? Think of how the lesson relates to you and what specific course of action you will take. **Write your application in the form of a question to make it personal.**

### Ephesians 5:1-14

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

### Ephesians 5:15-21

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

### Ephesians 5:22-33

Lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

?

## Summary

Write a simple sentence that summarizes what the passage is about. \_\_\_\_\_

Give a title to the chapter that will help you personally to remember it.



## Take a Closer Look

Therefore be careful how you walk,  
not as unwise men but as wise,  
making the most of your time, because the days are evil.  
Ephesians 5:15-16 (NAS)

### ***Memorize God's Word***

Choose the translation you prefer to memorize from and re-write the verse here.

---

---

---

---

### ***Meditate on God's Word***

**Look up.** What does this verse teach you about God? (For example, look for signs of His character, His attributes, His works, His promises.)

---

---

**Look around.** What does this verse teach you about the world and people in general?

---

---

**Look within.** What does this verse teach you about yourself?

---

---

**Look ahead.** Does this verse give you reason to hope? Briefly share your thoughts.

---

---

**Look alive!** Given the opportunity, how would you express the truth found in this verse to someone who needs to hear it?

---

---



## ***Make God's Word Your Prayer***

As you memorize and meditate on this verse, pray it back to the Lord. Let the Holy Spirit examine your heart, increase your understanding, and help you to pray. Ask Him for faith and strength to *act* on the truth of God's Word.

---

---

---

---

---

---



## **Something to Think About . . .**

The great use of one's life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.

- J. Oswald Sanders



## **God's Word Bearing Fruit**

For you, personally, what has been the most important lesson from this study?  
How will you put what God has shown you into practice?

---

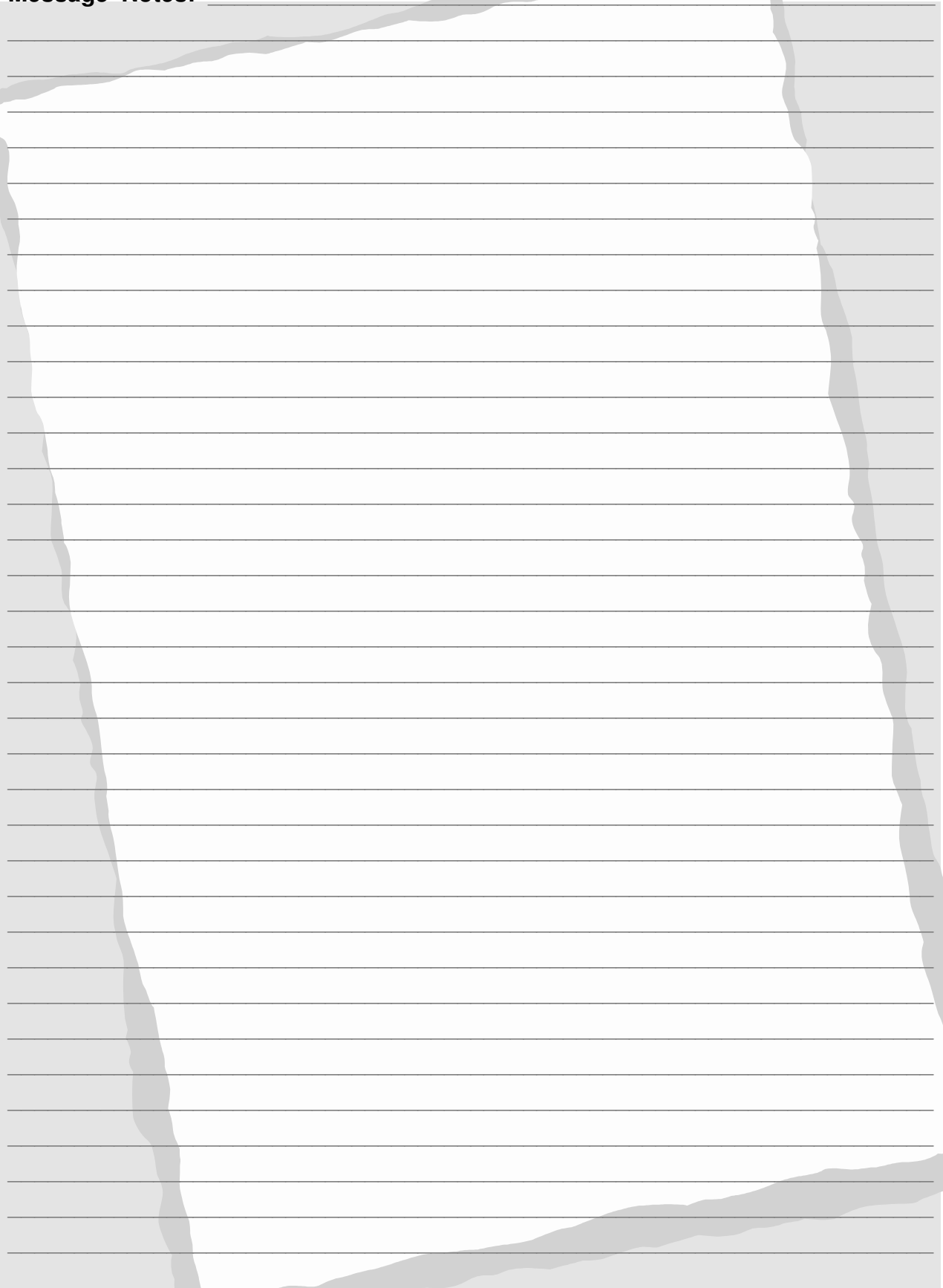
---

---

---

---

**Message Notes:**



A large rectangular area with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad or a message box. The left and bottom edges are irregular and torn, giving it a hand-drawn or cut-out appearance. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the box.



©2008 Leah Case. All Rights Reserved