

LIVE the LIFE (Ephesians 5)

3 Great Pieces of Advice

1. Live a life filled with LOVE (v2)
2. Live as people of LIGHT (v8)
3. Live like those who are WISE (v15)

GOSPEL GRAMMAR in EPHESIANS

Ephesians is split into two halves:

- * ½ half (Ch 1-3) is the Indicative: NEW CREATION REALITY (1:3,5,7, 22, Eph 2:6,10,13, 3:12).
- * 2nd half (Ch 4-6) is the Imperative: LIVING FOR GOD in the light of that reality (5:2,8,15).
- * The Bridge is 4:1: THEREFORE (preceded by famous prayer in 3:14-21).

When you think about the difference between *trying hard to live for God* and *living out of what God has already done in you*, what difference does that make to you personally?

→ What goes wrong when it drifts into your best efforts?

→ How does remembering what Jesus did for you shift it from sweat to overflow?

¹LOVE

Key Statement: In yr interactions, love does what's BIBLICALLY RIGHT for THEM, rather than what is necessarily BEST for you

- * Agape wants to SERVE, GIVE & BLESS.

How do we get there? Wholeness comes from full, deep REVELATIONS of God's love for YOU (Eph 2:4-5, 3:18-10, 5:2).

- * You cannot sustainably GIVE what you haven't learned to RECEIVE.
- * The reason we struggle to love sacrificially is often because we're trying to give out of an EMPTY RESERVOIR.
- * Learn to recognise God's love as it STIRS & BUBBLES and learn to draw from THAT WELL (Rom 5:5).

What does 'doing what is biblically right' for someone else, rather than what is necessarily best for ourselves look like in everyday relationships? Where can this be difficult?

How have you experienced the connection between receiving God's love and being able to love other people well?

What tends to empty your reservoir of love for others—and what helps you draw again from the well of God's love (Rom 5:5)?

²LIGHT

ONCE / NOW → Your current state is FULL ACCESS to HEAVEN'S LIGHT.

- * Sin lurks in the SHADOWS. Light's purpose is to EXPOSE what is HIDDEN in the DARK (5:11,13,14).
- * Our call is to take light into EVERY ROOM.

What does this look like?

- a) GOOD DEEDS shine God's goodness (Matt 5:14-16).
- b) Cling faithfully to the WORD OF LIFE & light will shine (Phil 2:5).
- c) Break that JAR OF CLAY to release the LIGHT (Judges 7:15-22, 2 Cor 4:4-7).

What might it practically mean for you to 'take light into every room' this week? Think about both your words and your actions, your attitudes and demeanour. What do you do when there is clearly 'something hidden in the shadows' in someone's? How do you bring God's light – that 'light within' – into that situation?

³WISDOM

The Threats:

v15: Foolishness is RIFE.

v16: The days are EVIL.

v17: THOUGHTLESSNESS leads to impulsiveness & foolishness.

The Imperative: Be CAREFUL ... Live WISELY ... Make the MOST of every opportunity ... UNDERSTAND what the Lord wants you to do.

Our Challenge: Folly DIVIDES, SEPARATES, REPELS; wisdom REDEEMS.

How do we walk in God's Wisdom & ∴ lead people into redemption?

1. PAUSE → Don't react from FLESH (Eph 4:30a).
2. PRAY → Ask God for WISDOM & REVELATION (Eph 1:17).
3. PLANT → Sow wisdom as a seed & leave the rest to God (Eph 3:10).

Can you think of a time you've reacted impulsively and made a mess? What about a time you pressed pause, waited for God's wisdom and saw much better results! The practical pathway is PAUSE → PRAY → PLANT. Which of those three comes most naturally to you and which do you most need to grow in?

RESPONSE

If you asked God this week, "Let what You have put IN me flow THROUGH me," which of the three – LOVE, LIGHT or WISDOM – would you most want Him to develop in you? How can we pray into that for you?

Is there a particular person, place or situation where you sense God wants what He has put in you to flow through you this week? Again, how can we pray?