

Ephesians 4:17–5:20

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Read Ephesians Chapter 4 from verse 17 until Chapter 5, verse 20. Paul has just finished a discussion on unity and maturity in the church. Now he goes on to show that purity is also essential for those in the Body of Christ, the church. Paul is telling the gentile Christians in Ephesus how their lives should look different from those of the unbelievers around them. He also tells how the relationships of Christians should be different from those of non-believers. As you read underline the words and phrases that are most significant to you.

1. How are we to no longer live? What does it look like to live this way? (vs. 17-19)
2. In contrast to the life described above, what truth have believers learned from Christ? (vs. 20-24)
3. List the sins the Christian is to “put off” or “put away”. (4:25-32 and 5:3-4,18)
4. List the characteristics of life the Christian is to “put on”. (4:25-32 and 5:1,4,9,16,19-20)
5. Is anger always a sin? Explain your answer. (vs. 26)
6. How do we “give the devil a foothold”?
7. According to this passage, how and why are we supposed to work? (vs. 28)

8. Define “unwholesome talk”. (4:29 and 5:4) Is unwholesome talk a problem for you? Why or why not?

9. What damage does “unwholesome talk” do in the church?

10. What kind of talk are we to use instead? (4:29 and 5:4,19-20)

11. In verse 9 of chapter 5 Paul talks about fruit. Go to Galatians 5:22 and list the fruit of the Spirit .

12. How are you “making the most of every opportunity” to live your life for God? (5:16) Is there more that you can be doing?

13. Evaluate your own life. Are there any areas listed here in chapters four and five that you need to work on? If yes, pray for God’s guidance on how you can go about “putting off” the things in your life that grieve the Holy Spirit and do not please God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

by Glenn Pease

Lord now fill me with your Spirit,

And His fruit love, joy, and peace.

This is my prayer now Lord please hear it;

Let this fruit in me increase.

May your patience and your kindness

Be by all now seen in me,

And your everlasting goodness

In my life, Lord, may they see.

Let me bear Lord such faithfulness

Like that faithfulness you show.

By this one way let my life bless

Everyone I come to know.

Let gentleness and self-control

Guide me in each relationship.

Lord, help me reach this Christ-like goal,

And with all nine fruits equip.