

WHAT ARE YOU FILLED WITH? Ephesians 5a

Chapter 4 ended with this... **31** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:1 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.

- In our daily reading we have been reading the book of Judges – Where the COI obey and are blessed for 20 years... Then they disobey and are conquered for 20 years... Then the Lord forgives them, and they are delivered for 20 years...
- 12 or 13 cycles of judgment and forgiveness. Why? Because God is always willing to forgive.
- Shouldn't we be willing too as well?
 - "Probably, but, staying mad is REALLY teaching the person I am mad at a lesson!"
 - Yes, but the lesson is that YOU ARE NOT a Christian.
 - At least you are not acting like one, so... You aren't.
 - Christians don't hold grudges... We walk in love, listen...

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

- Love is a sweet-smelling aroma to God...
- Grudges... Well, they stink. They stink to high heaven!
- CCSV, Our standard... Our example is how Jesus loved us and sacrificed Himself for us.
- Jesus said: **John 15:12** This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor

foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

- **NLT** - Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God.
- This might be difficult to initiate... but... IF YOU walk away when the dirty joke begins at work it might bring some ridicule, BUT it will also be a testimony of your faith.
 - Do it a few times and people will begin to apologize to you...
 - Do it for a few years and workmates will bring their prayer requests to you...

AN APOSTOLIC ASSERTION

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean (**Immoral**) person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

- WHY NOT?

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things (**Sexual impurity**) the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

- Listen, Teachers who justify living in sin are full of empty words...
- There are several major denominations preaching that sexual immorality is just the way it is today and to keep on donating but don't get all caught up with guilt...
- **WE ARE NOT ONE OF THEM...** Like the Apostle Paul, we warn to NOT become immoral... If you do, repent.... Change.... Humble yourself and get back in church. For the false teachers of immorality...

7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

- CEV - So don't have anything to do with anyone like that.
- Why not?

WALK IN LOVE & WALK WITH A LIGHT!

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

- When our kids were little, Lynette and I took them camping at Morro Bay State Campground... I took a walk one night to the restroom and I didn't walk with a light... I fell over something in the dark. When I returned, I realized from the laughter of the family that I had tripped and had fallen into a cold firepit... full of black ash... Walk... with a light!
- **Psalm 119:105** Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
- Protect your mind from the world as much as you can...
- You MAY have to change friends, or at least acquaintances... LISTEN...

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. **(Paul is speaking of religious secrets done in darkness)**

12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

- Why, do you suppose, they DO NOT put fluorescent tube lights in night clubs? Its easier to misbehave in the dark... People are prettier in the dark... Dirty floors and dishes look cleaner in the dark...
- **John 3:19** And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- A really good way to live is to NOT have many secrets... Live in the light!
- When somebody asks you, "Can you keep a secret...?" Always answer, NOT IF IT IS GOSSIP!

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." **ISAIAH 9, 26 & 60**

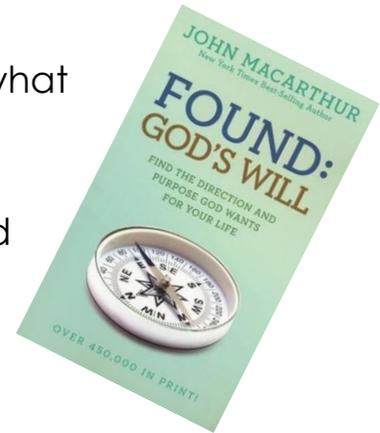
WALK IN LOVE, IN THE LIGHT & WITH WISDOM

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, (**carefully, diligently**) not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. **(In short supply)**

- In his gentle voice, Paul is telling them to wise-up! Listen...

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- Therefore – know God's will!
- Smarten up! Get a clue! Listen to God! Read the manual!
- Read: "Found: God's Will"



WHAT ARE YOU FULL OF?

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

- Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit.

EVIDENCE OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, **(Do you sing praises in your heart & mind?)**

20 **giving thanks always** for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

NOW... We end today with a difficult verse...

21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

How many of us are to be in submission? Submission to whom?

The **ONLY** way this works is for all of us to be in submission to God.

Next week – Husbands and wives in submission... Can't wait! CS34