

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-1 Building Great Relationships

LESSON 9: Follow The Leader. Be Imitators of God

1. Christian Perspectives:

Ephesians 5:1-7 (NIV)

¹ *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children*

² *and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

⁴ *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

⁵ *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

⁶ *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

⁷ *Therefore do not be partners with them.*

2. Christian Principles:

2.1 Be Imitators of God. Grow in Christlikeness.

Ephesians 5:1 (NIV)

¹ *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children*

Ephesians 3:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ *and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

1 Peter 2:21 (NIV)

²¹ *To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.*

2.2 Be loving. Show you care.

Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

² *and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

? **Forgiving love**

Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

³² *Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

? **Living love**

Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

² *and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Romans 5:5 (NIV)

⁵ *And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.*

? **Giving love**

Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)

² *and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

2.3 Be morally pure. Watch what you do.

Ephesians 5:3 (NIV)

³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.*

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

²² *Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2.4 Be verbally pure. Watch what you say.

Ephesians 5:4 (NIV)

⁴ *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

Be relationally pure. Keep good Christian company.

Ephesians 5:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

⁶ *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*

⁷ *Therefore do not be partners with them.*

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ *"Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."*

Romans 12:2 (NIV)

² *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ *Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders*

¹⁰ *nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

3. Discussion Questions:

3.1 Ask a volunteer in your group to summarize the key points of the outline from this lesson.

3.2 Discuss how these principles affect relationships.

3.3 What is the "big idea" from this lesson for you personally?

3.4 Which of these principles do you want/need to focus on for positive change?

3.5 What action steps could help you implement this positive change?

3.6 Spend the last few minutes praying for each other.