

# Uniting

ALL THINGS  
IN CHRIST

*an Ephesians study*

HUB GROUP NOTES | SEPTEMBER 19, 2021  
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## **Read Ephesians 5:1-10.**

1) Sex is a beautiful and good gift from God. God's design from the very beginning is for sexual intimacy to be expressed between man and woman in a committed, marriage relationship (Genesis 1:26-28, Matthew 19:4-6).

According to Ephesians 5:3-4, what are ways that we defraud this beautiful gift God gave us?

2) Why does Paul include covetousness in this section? What is the connection between covetousness and this command to be thankful?

A coveting heart is a discontent heart. A coveting heart is not thankful because the coveting heart proclaims, God has not done a good enough job providing. We know what is best, better than God does. We become convinced we have no choice in who we are & therefore are no longer responsible for our broken sexual appetites and sins.

Gratitude is what you feel when you believe God is for you and not against you. It's what you feel when you believe that God gives you only what is good for you and withholds no good thing.

3) Who has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?

In vs. 5-7, Paul is addressing someone in and around the church. Someone who has been deceived with empty words, a son of disobedience on whom the wrath of God will come.

This could be talking about rewards or loss of rewards for a Christian. I have mentors in this church that I deeply respect who believe this, but I personally think this is addressing someone who hasn't been born anew. Christians are not called "sons of disobedience", nor will we experience the wrath of God. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God." Romans 5:8-9 says, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God."

I believe bonafide children of God can walk away from God, sometimes for long seasons of life, make tragic decisions sexually and in other ways, but they will as the prodigal son does remember their inheritance and return to the arms of their Father.

Friends, if you are a child of God, you will inherit. Paul has already made it clear that believers will have an inheritance with God. In chapter 1, Paul says the Spirit is a guarantee of our inheritance. He also prays that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened so that we would know the glorious riches of our inheritance.

4) In vs. 8 Paul describes, in identity terms, who we were and who we are now.

Why is our identity as children of light significant as we battle the sexual temptations of darkness in our life and culture?

5) Paul says to "walk as children of light."

From your experience with sexual temptation (as a single or married), what are practical steps that all of us can take as we walk as children of light? What have you found to be very helpful?

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2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people - the Nyamwezi - by 2030.