

Believer's Boot Camp – Part 5

The Lord Jesus Christ has already defeated our Enemy hands down.

He has left it up to us to enforce every day in earth's trenches the victory He has won in the Heavens.

The book of Ephesians serves as a **Believers Boot Camp**, teaching us that the church is equipped with vast spiritual weaponry to accomplish this very task.

- Victory is ours **if we fight for it!**
- Ephesians is serious training for **serious Christians**.

When people **become Christians** one of the hardest things to do is to **RETRAIN them not to continue to operate according to the world system**.

It took one night to get Israel out of Egypt, but **forty years to get Egypt out of them**.

There is **always a battle** between the **NEW MAN** and the **OLD MAN**. And that is **why we need teaching like Paul gives to us** in Ephesians.

Ephesians 5

Eph. 5:1 - Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.

Just as Children imitate their parents, we should imitate God.

We do that by modeling our lives after Jesus!

"Follow God's example" – the basic idea of Christianity is to **IMITATE CHRIST!**

- Do outwardly for others what He has done inwardly for you.

Eph. 5:2- *And walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

His great love for us led Him to sacrifice himself so that we may live!

- Our love for others should be of the same kind –
- A love that goes beyond affection to self-sacrificing service.

Don't put all the blame on God for your shortcomings.

You need to put **YOUR FLESH** on *the altar as a sacrifice* - **Just like Jesus did!**

Eph. 5:3 - *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.*

Sexual immorality “fornication” – all kinds of sexual sin.

Colossians 3:5 - *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

We should consider ourselves dead and unresponsive to Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed...

Sexual involvement outside the marriage* destroys people and families and **turns their hearts away from God.*

Eph. 5:4 - *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

obscenity “filthiness” – don’t talk dirty / “foolish talking” – don’t talk silly.

Paul cautions that improper language should have no place in the Christians conversation because it does not reflect God's gracious presence in us.

How can we praise God and remind others of His goodness when we are speaking crudely?

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

“idolater” – idolatry is putting anything else before God in my life.

1 Corinthians 6:9:11 - *Do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men¹⁰ nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.*

¹¹ And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul is describing characteristics of unbelievers.

Christians come out of all kinds of different backgrounds, including these.

They may still struggle with evil desires, but they should not continue in these practices.

- We must not participate in sin or condone it in anyway.

Eph. 5:8-10 - ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

“Children of light” = “native to the light”

As people who have light from the Lord, our actions will reflect our faith.

Matthew 5:15-16 - ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Our pasts may have dark times of cynicism, despair, shame, or self-doubt.

We must reject him by intentionally living out what pleases the Lord.

Satan desires to lead us back into that darkness!!!

Romans 12:2 - Do not conform 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.

Paul warned Christians about following the selfish and corrupt pattern of this fallen world.

Eph. 5:11 - Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

fruitless deeds of darkness “unfruitful works” – when we are born again, *the enemy has no right to reproduce his fruit* in our lives anymore.

expose them “*reprove*” = expose, rebuke, discipline, convict, correct and expel –

- There can be **no compromise** with the unfruitful works of darkness –
- **Shine the light on them and purge them!**

Eph. 5:12-13 - It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

When you **SPEAK** of something you **MAGNIFY** (intensify) it –

That's why this generation is worse than any previous generation,

- Because they have put **immorality in “public”** more than any generation before them –
- **When you speak of something, it reproduces** because **you give it permission** to exist –
- But the good news is that **this works for good** things too!

John 3:20-21 - *20 Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

- Many people **don't want their lives exposed to God's light** because **they are afraid of what will be revealed.**
- **Don't be surprised** when **these same people are threatened** by your desire to obey God.

Eph. 5:14 - This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Paul was warning the Ephesians **to wake up and realize** the dangerous condition into which **some of them had been slipping....**

If you are **a Christian,** don't let **the world** lull you to sleep!

Eph. 5:15-16 - Be very *careful*, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Carefully, purposefully, worthily, accurately

Making the most of every opportunity “time” =

- “**kairos**” (special moments of God’s visitation) –
- **not “chronos**” (time measured by the clock)

Eph. 5:17 - Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

- **DO NOT conform to the world!**

Eph. 5:18-20 - Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul contrasts getting drunk with wine **with being filled with the Spirit**. Getting drunk is a symptom of the OLD WAY of life and its selfish desires.

There are many parallels between the intoxication of wine and the intoxication of the Spirit.

Paul describes being filled with the Holy Spirit as a choice, **NOT** a complex process.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit means that we submit to His authority, welcome His guidance, accept His correction, live under His restraint, rely on His power, and allow Him to unify us *with other believers*.

We must fill our lives with the cleansing and invigorating love and power of the Holy Spirit.

When you feel like life has worn you down – Instead of whining and complaining – which our culture has raised to an art form –

We are to focus on the goodness of God and His mercies towards us!!!

You can be sure that God’s perfect love will see you through any difficulty.

Instructions for Christian Households

Eph. 5:21 - Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

God has chosen submission as the principle of the kingdom that sets the tone for ALL relationships.

SUBMISSION is when you give up your will for mine.

- Submitting to another person is an often-misunderstood concept.
- Though submission seems strange to modern attitudes.

When we submit to God, we become more willing to obey His command to submit to others – that is, to subordinate our rights to theirs.

- We are to submit to one another out of choice!

Eph. 5:22-24 - *Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

Submission preserves order and harmony, while it increases love and respect!

A wife can easily submit to her husband when she believes he serves her, cares for her, and holds her needs above his.

When someone feels secure in a loving relationship, submitting is usually not a problem.

Eph. 5: 25-33 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”*

32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

God wants you to make your marriage a sacrifice unto Him.

Both the man and the woman are *deeply challenged* here to "play their part"

Paul wanted Christians to show the world through Christian marriages that something new was taking place.

He saw marriage not as a practical necessity or a cure for lust but *as a picture of the relationship between Christ and his church.*

Marriage, for Paul, was a holy union, a living symbol, a precious relationship needing tender, self-sacrificing care.

Remember that while wives must submit, husbands have to die.

In other words, a Christian husband must kill his desire to put himself and his personal desires ahead of his wife's.

The only way a marriage can survive for years is for the man to crucify his flesh and for the wife to make her flesh submit ("not my will but thine")

The most intimate relationship I have on earth is what God wants to use to portray His relationship with His church –

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Close:

When Satan tempted Eve, he was trying to get to Adam.

- **Satan doesn't dare attack God directly (he already did that and lost!)**
- **So, he attacks the church.**
- **If he can destroy our unity, he can hinder the work of God on earth.**

When a man and a woman "connect" they produce fruit –

- **Just like God and His church –**
- **That's why the serpent attacked their union in Eden.**

The church is both the bride of Christ and the body of Christ.

Eve was both the bride and the body of Adam (flesh of my flesh, bone of my bone).

The fall of humanity didn't take place when Eve was deceived and ate.

It took place when Adam deliberately and intentionally ate.

Eve was DECEIVED, but Adam DECIDED - *and it was his decision that caused the fall of humanity.*

The sins we commit that are borne of deception do not strike at the very nature of our relationship with God.

These sins are readily confessed, repented, and cast aside.

But the sins we commit out of our will – as a conscious decision and plan of action – are destructive and deadly to our relationship with God.

When Adam and Eve both entered a state of death, everything under their domain came under death.

That's what a kingdom is – a domain over which you have dominion.

- It is what you rule and govern, when a king falls his kingdom falls w/him.

When Eve took the forbidden fruit, Adam knew she was going to die –

He said, "*I love her so much I am willing to die with her,*" and he ate too.

The first Adam's mistake was that he loved the GIFT more than he loved the GIVER.

Everything they produced after that and everything they had domain over fell too!

In God's eyes there were only two men ever created –

- the first Adam and the second Adam –
- and everything else was born of one of them!

God brought forth a Bride out of the first Adam, and God brought forth a Bride out of the second Adam (out of his side came blood and water).

- **The first Adam said, "Since my wife is going to die, I'll die with her."**
- **The second Adam said, "Since my wife is already dead, I'll die FOR her!"**
- **Substitutionary sacrifice.**

How do you explain substitutionary atonement?

According to the Scriptures, sin must be paid for.

When Jesus Christ died, He suffered as a substitute in the place of and on behalf of fallen humanity.

Christ's death made it possible for men and women to be declared righteous, based on their faith in Him.

Sin is not normal behavior for the believer.

Sin is never to be routine for the believer.

Sin is not inevitable for the believer.

We are set free!