

Get a Life!

*Ephesians*

# Erroneous Living

Lesson Twenty

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## *Ephesians*

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Ephesians 4:1

### Erroneous Living

**Lesson Goal:** To allow students to understand God's warning against misbehavior.

**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:1-20

Kelvin was known in the neighborhood as a troublemaker. Whenever his name was mentioned, everyone thought of misbehavior. He was a little boy who lived erroneously. Do you see "error" in that big word. He tried to be a good boy, but he just couldn't seem to get it right. Then one day he was talking to Brandon, who always seemed to get it right. Brandon was never in trouble, never had to do time-outs, never got yelled at. Kelvin said, "I'm tired of always being in trouble. How do you get by without messing up?" Brandon said, "You know, I never thought about it. I guess I just try real hard to think about other people and how the things that I do affects them." Kelvin began to think about that and soon was finding it easier to do the right thing.

Paul begins the fifth chapter of Ephesians with, "Be imitators of God..." He says that the Ephesians should "live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us..."\* So, the advice is to find the very best example you can find and do your very best to be just like that person...just like Kelvin decided to try to be just like Brandon.

Verse three, in chapter five, lists some things that we should avoid: First, any kind of impurity. He specifically mentions sexual impurity. Saving all sexual relations for marriage, is the ideal. Impurity is not only doing things that are wrong, but thinking things that are wrong. He also mentions greed, wanting things that don't belong to us, or wanting too many things so that we spend everything on ourselves and we cannot afford to help those who are in need. He warns us against sins of the tongue: cursing, speaking foolishly (just babbling with no point) and joking about things which are not really funny. He says in verse seven that we shouldn't even have friendships or partnerships with people who behave or talk that way.

Paul says that the Ephesians should remember that they were once in darkness and their lives had those characteristics and behaviors. But now they were living in the light and their lives should show goodness, righteousness and truth...the kind of things that please God...the kind of things that remind people of Jesus.

In verse fifteen he continues to point out ways we can imitate Jesus. He says live wisely not foolishly. He says that getting drunk is foolish. He says that instead of filling ourselves with drugs (alcohol included) we should seek to invite God into our lives, to fill us with His Holy Spirit. He says that the way to do that is to sing Christian songs, sing them together with your Christian friends, and to always be giving thanks to God.

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In our last lesson we learned about developing Christian “Life Skills.” Those kinds of skills come to the life of those who avoid evil. Avoiding evil means that we take the law of God seriously. What is that law? Well, we could begin with the Ten Commandments. We are to love God and refuse to insult Him by using His name the wrong way and by not placing anything before Him, ever. We are to respect and honor our parents and we are not to kill anyone...that includes killing their reputation by saying something bad about them. We are to refuse to be involved with anyone sexually to whom we are not married. We are not to take anything that doesn't belong to us, which includes sitting around wishing for what they have. And, finally, it means always speaking the truth. Paul said don't use bad words and don't talk foolishly or joke at the expense of someone else.

Do you see that Paul is warning the Ephesians, and us, about that which breaks God's law. If you look at verse five, you will see that immorality, impurity and greediness are not only bad for you and bad for other humans, they are “idolatry” which is putting something before God. (first and second commandments) In verse four we are warned against bad language which insults God. (third commandment) In verse 3 we see the warning against sexual impurity which hurts you and other persons. ( seventh commandment) In that same verse, we are warned against greed which leads to desiring other people's things. (eighth and tenth commandments) We also see in verse eighteen that we should not get drunk which leads to debauchery. That word means that getting drunk will lead you to a loss of control and to immorality. (all commandments, especially the last six) We could go on, but surely you get the point by now.

Erroneous living places ourselves first and God last. It always ignores God and is careless about other humans. Righteous living is wise, joyful, thankful, in the light and imitates God.

**Memory Verse:** “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”  
Ephesians 5:8

\*Underlined sentences in the Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

# Student Worksheet

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**Memory Verse:** “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”  
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>Paul begins the fifth chapter of Ephesians with, “Be \_\_\_\_\_ of God...” He says that the Ephesians should “live a life of \_\_\_\_\_, just as Christ loved us and \_\_\_\_\_ Himself up for us...”

>Paul is warning the Ephesians, and us, about that which breaks God’s law.

>If you look at verse five, you will see that immorality, impurity and greediness are not only \_\_\_\_\_ for you and bad for other \_\_\_\_\_, they are “idolatry” which is putting something \_\_\_\_\_ God. (first and second commandments)

>In verse four we are warned against bad language which \_\_\_\_\_ God. (third commandment)

>In verse 3 we see the warning against sexual impurity which \_\_\_\_\_ you and other \_\_\_\_\_. (seventh commandment)

>In that same verse, we are warned against \_\_\_\_\_ which leads to desiring other people’s \_\_\_\_\_. (eighth and tenth commandments)

>We also see in verse eighteen that we should not get \_\_\_\_\_ which leads to debauchery. That word means that getting \_\_\_\_\_ will lead you to a loss of \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_. (all commandments, especially the last six)

### How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be ready to live for him all the rest of your life.