

# Ephesians

## A Real Piece of Work

### Week Seven

Do you have friends you know so well that you can finish their sentences for them? You've spent so much time with them over the years, talked and listened, and shared life together, that you know how they think. You know what they mean, even when other people don't. You share inside jokes and sometimes talk to each other in a kind of private shorthand conversation that you have to explain to others. It takes time to develop that kind of intimacy, but it's so rich, isn't it?

In a way, Bible Study is like that. The more of the Bible we know...the more time we've spent listening to God in different contexts, the better we know how He thinks and understand what He means. On the other hand, if we try to understand what God means based on one passage (or even one book) we'll be at a disadvantage. The Bible is God's Word—His letter to us. All of it. We understand what He says best when we consider all that He has said. In other words, if we encounter something that we don't understand in our Bible Study, we can often find an explanation by in another part of the Bible. Bible Scholars call this tool **Comparison**. We are letting Scripture Interpret Scripture—clearer passages explain confusing ones. The good news is we have a number of ways to find those other passages (called cross references) even if we don't know where they are on our own. Here are three:

- Many Bibles include cross references (sometimes labeled "cf") in the margin of the text.
- You can often find a concordance in the back of your Bible. This is like a glossary, and lists the important passages that use a particular word.
- Websites like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) have keyword search functions that let us find every verse that uses a particular word or set of words. (A caution, this option can yield so many passages that we're overwhelmed with "too much" information.)



## Week Seven Homework

### **Observe (What Do I SEE?)**

Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

#### ***Ephesians 5:1-21(NIV)***

Observations

<sup>1</sup>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children  
<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what

the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light<sup>(V)</sup> becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

“Lump and Label”...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

Use Cross References to gain insight...Use one of these methods to find other passages that may further explain a word or phrase from our focus passage.

- Cross references are often listed in the margins of your Bible's text.
- Concordances are found at the back of many Bibles and list passages that use a particular word.
- Websites like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) allow us to search for every occurrence of a given word, or set of words.

Record what you find.

## **Apply (How Does it WORK?)**

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

**S**—a SIN to avoid

**P**—a PROMISE to claim

**E**—an EXAMPLE to follow

**C**—a COMMAND to obey

**K**—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the user to write their application of the text. It occupies the lower half of the page.