



**Letter on Christian Living**  
**Paul to Ephesians**  
*Living in the Image of God*  
*Module 05 Session 19*

Banking Blessings Ministry  
 San Antonio, Texas  
 USA



**Living in the Image of God**

- God creates every person to represent him in human interactions with others
- Be for others what God would be for them if he lived with us in human form
- He provides resources for people to perform the responsibilities
- He blesses those that do

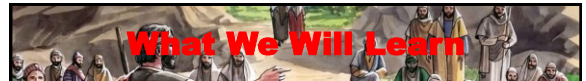
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**Living in the Image of God**

- Program seeks to understand
- Meaning of *Living in the Image of God*
- Resources God has provided to guide us
- Human responsibilities
- Benefits of *Living in the Image of God*

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**What We Will Learn**

- Paul's letter to Ephesians provides three-part message regarding Christian living
- Call to Christian living
- God provides the Holy Spirit as partner for Christian living
- Examples of human interactions for Christian living
- Ephesians 4:17–32 and 5:1–20


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**Call to Christian Living**

- Turn to living to “be like God”
  - Turn away from sin
  - Way of living before you learned about Jesus
  - Turn to living according to God's design
  - God creates every person to represent him, “be like God” in human interactions with others
- Call to *Living in the Image of God*
- Ephesians 4:20–24

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**Ephesians 4 (NIV)**

20 That, however, is not the way of life you learned

21 when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus.

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### Ephesians 4 (NIV)

22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;  
 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds;  
 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

- Turn away from sin
- Turn to *Living in the Image of God*

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### Holy Spirit Partner for Christian Living

- Be filled with the Holy Spirit
- To understand God's purpose for you in interactions with others
- Worship and praise God in your heart always
- Give thanks to God for everything
- He will guide you to fulfill his purpose for you in interactions with others
- Ephesians 5:17–20

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### Ephesians 5 (NIV)

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.  
 18 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.

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### Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Individual responsibility for compassion
- Love and care for others as Christ loves and cares for you
- Do not steal
- Instead, work to develop capability
  - To provide for your needs
  - And provide for the needs of others
- Ephesians 4:28 and 5:1–2

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### Ephesians 4 (NIV)

28 Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

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### Ephesians 5 (NIV)

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children  
 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.

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### Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Individual responsibility for peace
- Do not let anger drive you to sin
- Avoid bitterness, rage, brawling, slander, and all forms of malice
- Resolve your anger quickly within same day
- Ephesians 4:26, 27, and 31

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### Ephesians 4 (NIV)

26 "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,

27 and do not give the devil a foothold.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.

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### Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Motivation for righteousness
- Holy Spirit is your partner in righteousness
- Pleased by acts of righteousness
- Grieved when you decline opportunity for righteousness or engage in sinful behavior

**Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

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### Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Individual responsibility regarding mercy
- Open your heart to recognize when you are in position to be merciful toward others
- Forgive those that do wrong to you
- Same way that God forgives your sin through Christ

**Ephesians 4:32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

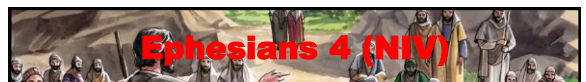
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### Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Paul's letter on Christian living provides several examples to illustrate the individual responsibility for righteousness
- Example regarding individual responsibility for righteousness
- Be truthful to others so that they may rely on your information
- Speak only to uplift others and motivate them to righteousness
- Ephesians 4:25 and 29

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### Ephesians 4 (NIV)

25 Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

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## Human Interactions for Christian Living

- Example regarding individual responsibility for righteousness
- Love others as God loves you
- Avoid sexual immorality, greed, envy, or any kind of unhealthy desire
- Avoid obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking
- Do not submit yourself to deceit by others
- Ephesians 5:1–13 [1–8 read in session]

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## Ephesians 5 (NIV)

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

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## Ephesians 5 (NIV)

- 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 person 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.

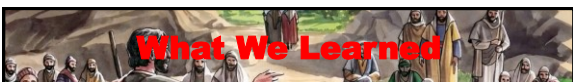
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## Ephesians 5 (NIV)

- 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.
- 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)

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## What We Learned

- Paul's letter to Ephesians provides three-part message regarding Christian living
- Call to Christian living
  - Depart from sinful living
  - Turn to living according to God's design
  - Based on understanding that God creates every person to represent him in human interactions with others

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## What We Learned cont'd

- God provides the Holy Spirit as partner for Christian living
  - Be filled with the Holy Spirit
  - To understand God's purpose for you in human interactions with others
  - And receive and follow God's guidance
  - To fulfill his purpose for you in every situation

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## What We Learned cont'd

- Examples of human interactions for Christian living
- Paul provides several examples to illustrate individual responsibilities for Christian living
  - Individual responsibility for compassion
  - Individual responsibility for peace
  - Motivation for righteousness
  - Individual responsibility for mercy
  - Individual responsibility for righteousness

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# Letter on Christian Living—Paul to Ephesians

## Living in the Image of God M05S19

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Paul's letter to Ephesians regarding Christian living provides a three-part message. The first part is a call to Christian living, where he calls every person to depart from sin and turn to *Living in the Image of God*. Christian living is based on the understanding that God creates every person to represent him in human interactions with others: to interact with others as God would interact with them if he lived in human form among them. The second part of the message declares that the Holy Spirit is our partner for Christian living and enables a person to receive and follow God's guidance to fulfill his purpose for you in every situation. Paul provides advice on being filled with the Holy Spirit, to understand God's purpose for you in interactions with others. The third segment of the message provides examples to illustrate the individual responsibilities in human interactions for Christian living; specifically, regarding compassion, peace, mercy, and motivation for and practice of righteousness.

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In this bible study, we discuss a section of Paul's letter to Ephesians, where he provides a three-part message regarding Christian living. The first part of the message is a call to Christian living. Paul calls every person to depart from sin and turn to *Living in the Image of God*: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness" [Ephesians 4: 22–24].

The second part of the message explains that God provides the Holy Spirit as partner in Christian living [Ephesians 5:17–19]: "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit."

In the third part of the message, Paul provides examples to describe the individual responsibilities in human interactions for Christian living. The examples include compassion, peace, mercy, motivation for righteousness, and several examples regarding practice of righteousness [Ephesians 5:4–5]: "Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 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."

## Call to Christian Living

Paul's message begins with a call to Christian living and is based on the understanding that God creates every person to represent him in human interactions with others. Christian living means *Living in the Image of God*, representing God among people and circumstances, and interacting with them as God would interact with them if he lived in human form among them.

Paul describes Christian living as Living to "be like God" in human interactions with others. He calls every person to turn away from sinful living and turn to *Living in the Image of God* [Ephesians 4: 22–24]: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." [Ephesians 4: 22–24]

## **Partner in Christian Living**

The second segment of Paul's message declares the Holy Spirit as our partner in Christian living. The Holy Spirit enables a person to receive and follow God's guidance to fulfill his purpose for you in every situation. Paul provides advice on being filled with the Holy Spirit, to understand God's purpose for you in interactions with others. Always worship and praise God in your heart and give thanks to God for everything. He will guide you to fulfill his purpose for you in every event of human interactions with others [Ephesians 5:17–19]: "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit."

Make your body, heart, and soul an environment for the Holy Spirit: "Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" [Ephesians 5:19–20].

## **Examples in Human Interactions for Christian Living**

In the third segment of his message, Paul provides several examples to illustrate the individual responsibilities in human interactions for Christian living. The examples include compassion, peace, mercy, motivation for righteousness, and several examples regarding practice of righteousness.

### **Individual Responsibilities Regarding Compassion**

The first example describes the individual responsibilities regarding compassion. Love and care for others as Christ loves and cares for you. Do not steal. Instead, work to develop capability to provide for your needs and the needs of others: "Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need" [Ephesians 4:28].

### **Individual Responsibilities Regarding Peace**

The second example describes the individual responsibilities regarding peace. Do not let anger drive you to sin. Avoid bitterness, rage, brawling, slander, and all forms of malice. Resolve your anger quickly within the same day [Ephesians 4:26–27 and 31]: "In your anger do not sin: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice."

### **Individual Responsibilities Regarding Mercy**

The third example describes the individual responsibilities regarding mercy. Open your heart to recognize when you are in position to be merciful to others. Forgive those that do wrong to you. The same way that God forgives your sin through Christ: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" [Ephesians 4:32].

### **Individual Responsibilities Regarding Motivation for Righteousness**

The fourth example describes the individual responsibilities regarding motivation for righteousness. As your partner in righteousness, the Holy Spirit is pleased by your acts of

righteousness, but grieved when you decline opportunity for righteousness or engage in sinful behavior: “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” [Ephesians 4:30].

## **Individual Responsibilities Regarding Righteousness**

Paul provides the next several examples to describe the individual responsibilities regarding the practice of righteousness. The first example in this set talks about truthfulness and using the truth only for the purpose of uplifting others. Be truthful to others so that they may rely on your information. Speak only to uplift others and motivate them to righteousness [Ephesians 4:25 and 29]: “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”

The second example talks about love and other person-to-person interactions. Love others as God loves you. Avoid sexual immorality, greed, envy, or any kind of unhealthy desire. Avoid obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking. Do not submit yourself to deceit by others [Ephesians 5:1–3]: “Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children 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. 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.”

## **Summary of What We Learned**

Paul’s letter to Ephesians regarding Christian living provides a three-part message. The first part is a call to Christian living, where he calls every person to depart from sin and turn to *Living in the Image of God*. Christian living is based on the understanding that God creates every person to represent him in human interactions with others: to interact with others as God would interact with them if he lived in human form among them.

The second part of the message declares that the Holy Spirit is our partner for Christian living and enables a person to receive and follow God’s guidance to fulfill his purpose for you in every situation. Paul provides advice on being filled with the Holy Spirit, to understand God’s purpose for you in interactions with others.

The third segment of the message provides examples to illustrate the individual responsibilities in human interactions for Christian living; specifically, regarding compassion, peace, mercy, and motivation for and practice of righteousness.

**Key Words:** Christian Living, Compassion, Holy Spirit, Mercy, Peace, Paul, Righteousness