

**Series: EPHESIANS: THE CHURCH EMPOWERED**

**Title: HOW TO PLEASE THE LORD**

**Text:** Ephesians 5:1-21

**Date:** Nov 10, 2024

## **Opening Line**

What do you think of when I say, “Something smells?”

- Is your initial response to think of a bad smell?
- I have allergies.... Easter lilies really mess me up. I can tell when they are in a room right away.
- Is it not a joy to be in close proximity with someone who has extreme body odor?
- We can usually tell when something smells bad.

Do I need to add the word “good” to clarify?

- Something smells good!
- Thanksgiving aromas in the house
- June makes her wonderful cookies.
- A fresh breeze or the smell of a rose

Today I want to talk about what stinks and what smell pleases the Lord.

## **FIND OUT WHAT PLEASES THE LORD**

**Eph.5:10** – *find out what pleases the Lord.*

Author Richard Baxter states,

“If you seek first to please God and are satisfied therein, you have but one to please instead of multitudes; and a multitude of masters are harder to please than one.”

Paul has shared in chapter 4 that we are to walk in a manner that is worthy of our calling.

He described it as a walk in unity and in purity.

He now calls us, as children of the Holy Father, to be imitators of God and walk in love, walk in light, and walk in wisdom.

## WALK AS CHILDREN OF LOVE V 1-7

### Follow the Example of Christ' Love

#### Eph. 5:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> 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.

- Example – imitator
  - Transliteration: mimétés
  - Phonetic Spelling: (mim-ay-tace')
  - Definition: an imitator
  - Usage: an imitator, follower.
  - mimic
- An imitator of God as a child of God
  - Give yourself up
  - Smell good to God by loving
  - Sacrifice yourself

### Remove Everything Unholy

#### Eph. 5:3-7

<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 person 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.

#### No Hint of Impropriety

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • No immorality   | • Covetousness    |
| • No worldliness  | • Filthiness      |
| • Fornication     | • Foolish talking |
| • All uncleanness | • Coarse jesting  |

No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**Being loving, thankful and pure is pleasing to the Lord**

## WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT V 8-14

### Fruit of Light that pleases the Lord

**Eph. 5:8-10**

<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**.

- Smell good by shining
- Goodness, righteousness and truth

Alistair Begg:

“We make a great mistake if we think of (pleasing God) as a compartment of life marked ‘spiritual,’ or ‘religious,’ rather than as a total way of life involving pleasing God in all its aspects. We want to learn to be able to say with Paul, ‘*We make it our goal to please Him*’ (2 Corinthians 5:9).”

### Fruit of darkness will be exposed

**Eph. 5:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the **fruitless deeds of darkness**, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup> It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

- Don't stink it up
- God will search it out, expose it

### So Wake UP!

**Eph. 5:14**

*This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

- It is like a slumber...an unawareness of what the Lord desires and

**Shining goodness, righteousness and truth pleases the Lord**

## WALK AS CHILDREN IN WISDOM V 15-21

### Wisdom in Opportunities

**Eph. 5:15-17**

<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.

Author Richard Owen Roberts said, “The only path to pleasure is in pleasing God.”

### **Wisdom by the Holy Spirit**

#### **Eph. 5:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,* <sup>19</sup> *speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from 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.*

- Speaking to each other as a choir or symphony from a heart for the Lord
- Gratitude to God for everything
- Submitting to one another

**Being careful, wise, understanding,  
submitted to others,  
and reverent to the God pleases the Lord**