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## ACCOUNTABILITY – EPHESIANS 5:1-22

### GETTING STARTED

One of the most talked about and least implemented relationships in the church is honest and genuine accountability. If you have been around church for a while, you may have heard someone talk about the importance of having accountability and perhaps this is something you have wanted. Someone who knows and cares for you enough to be able to walk with you through life. However, it is also one of the most challenging to have in your life because the whole goal of the relationship is to challenge! It requires an openness that most of us find uncomfortable, yet it is so vital to the Christian life. It requires an intentionality to our Christian life that we don't always take. None of us are aware of our sin enough to see it all nor strong enough by ourselves to deal with it. We need Christian brothers and sisters around us who can speak into our lives and challenge us to fight against sin and grow in holiness.

### READ THE TEXT: EPHESIANS 5:1-22

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<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in



the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*Extra verses for studying this passage: James 5:16, Galatians 6:1-2, Psalm 1:1, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, Proverbs 27:5-6, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7*

## UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Paul lists a number of different sins in this passage, which are most expected, and which are least expected? Also consider Romans 1:29-31, what do these lists show us about the sins we consider acceptable?
2. Verses 10 and 17 speak about what is pleasing to God and his will. How are we supposed to know what is pleasing to God? How should we know what is his will?

## APPLY THE TEXT

3. Consider how Jesus loved you despite your sin and neglect of God. How are you loving those around you regardless of their response?
4. Are you being accountable to someone about your personal life and walk with Christ?
5. Are you being available to others so that they too may confess their sins to you and pray for each other?

## SHARE & PRAY

1. As we discuss the role of the church as a family, how can we practically show the love of God to others in our church this week?
2. As we demonstrate God's love in our church, how can we show that love to others outside of the church?

