

# The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | **Ephesians** | Philippians | Colossians

Lesson #11 – Ephesians 5

## Main Idea

Ephesians 5 focuses on Christian living, emphasizing love, purity, and wisdom. Paul urges Believers to imitate God by walking in love, just as Christ loved and sacrificed Himself for humanity. He warns against immoral behavior, including impurity, greed, and inappropriate speech, encouraging believers to live as children of light, rejecting darkness and sin. Paul also stresses the importance of wisdom and discernment, urging Christians to make the most of their time and be filled with the Spirit rather than indulging in reckless behavior. He highlights the power of worship, gratitude, and mutual submission in relationships. The chapter concludes with instructions on marriage, likening the relationship between husband and wife to that of Jesus and the Church. Husbands are called to love their wives sacrificially, while wives are encouraged to respect their husbands, reflecting God's design for unity and love in marriage.

## Overview of Chapter 5

Verses 1-17	The walk of the Believer
Verses 18-20	Living the life of a spirit-filled Believer
Verses 22-31,33	Instructions for husbands and wives
Verse 32	The Mystery of the Church

## Verses 1 through 20

1. Why do you think purity is so important, especially today? How does this command differ from what we observe in our society and why is the lack of purity so pervasive in today's culture?
2. Verses 15 through 17 discuss about living wisely. If you had to relive portions of your life over again (or were to give advice to a young people), what would you do differently in terms of making wise choices?

## Verses 21 through 33

3. What does "Biblical" submission look like (or *should* it look like) as we read verse 21? Think in terms of relationships with family, friends, and spouses.
4. Read verses 22 and 33, what commands are specifically given to wives?
5. For husbands what does "Biblical" love look like (or *should* it look like)? In verses 28-29 Paul talks about how the husband is to care for his wife. What does this look like? Also consider Paul's comments in I Timothy 5:8.
6. The instructions provided in verse 33 seem so simple, but what makes having a solid and thriving marriage so difficult? What areas of your marriage need the greatest improvement? As an alternative to the second question, consider providing thoughts where you've seen the greatest growth in your marriage.

**Homework:** Read Ephesians 6. What is the greatest desire you have for your children and grandchildren?



## Ephesians 5 (New International Version)

<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.

<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>Ⓜ</sup> <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> 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. <sup>14</sup> This is why it is said:

“Wake up, 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> 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.

### Instructions for Christian Households

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

<sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing<sup>Ⓜ</sup> her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”<sup>Ⓜ</sup> <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### Footnotes

- a. [Ephesians 5:5](#) Or *kingdom of the Messiah and God*
- b. [Ephesians 5:26](#) Or *having cleansed*
- c. [Ephesians 5:31](#) Gen. 2:24

