

# IMMEASURABLY MORE ..

## [Part 2]

### learning from the letter to the Ephesians

*“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! [Eph.3.20f]*

The letter to the Ephesians sets out for us ‘the unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph.3.8), and assures us that God is ‘able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine’ (Eph.3.20): this set of studies is intended to help us all enter into and enjoy that ‘immeasurably more’.

You can find the background to this series [here](#).

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#### **No pressure!**

There are 7 [sets of] questions in each study to provide the option, which some find useful, of the material being used as a daily study.

#### **Priorities!**

You’ll know your own group, so use what you’ll find most helpful. As always there will be benefit in looking at all the questions! This is another very practical section of the letter so try and cover at least questions **2, 3, 6 & 7**.

#### **Prayer!**

Do try also to make a point in your Community Group of leaving time for praying together!

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## 8. Ephesians 5.1-17 [w/b Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June]

*“be very careful, then, how you live”*

The whole of the second half of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians is shaped by what he urges on the believers to in 4.1 – *“to live a life worthy of [or that corresponds to] the calling you have received.”*

Who they now are by the grace of God, and what God is doing in them and through them, is to determine how they now live by the power of God’s Spirit. In this section of the letter, therefore, he set out what it is to live *“as dearly loved children”* (vv.1-7), *“as children of light”* (vv.8-14), and *“not as unwise but as wise”* (vv.15-17).

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1. **Read Eph.5.1-17.** Read the passage out loud and picture yourself as one of the believers at Ephesus hearing the letter being read.

In your own words what is the basic thrust of this passage?

Which part challenges you most, and why?

2. **Read Ephesians 5.1-2.** Paul explains that we are now ‘dearly loved children’: his basic exhortation, therefore, is simply to be what you are.

Think about what's involved in imitating another person: what will be involved in our learning to *imitate* God?

How does Paul here describe the life of love? What will that look like in the home, in the fellowship, among your friends?

**3. Read Ephesians 5.3-4.** Paul contrasts the 'life of love', to which he's just referred, with the sort of life to which the Ephesian believers were exposed all around them.

How will a commitment to holiness in our living and thanksgiving in our speaking prevent our slipping into the ways of the world?

**4. Read Ephesians 5.5-7.** Paul's warning is very stark and clear. 'Idolatry' in any shape or form is incompatible with our owning the Lordship of Jesus in our lives

Read **1 Thess.1.9-10**: what are some of the 'idols' in our contemporary society from which believers may need to turn?

**5. Read Ephesians 5.8-14.** We have been brought out of darkness into light (see 1 Pet.2.9): we're to learn now, therefore, to live 'in the light'.

What does Paul identify as the 'fruit of the light'? And what implications do these have for our living?

When Paul says (quoting effectively Isaiah 60.1) that 'Christ will shine on you' what does he mean by the phrase?

**6. Read 1 John 2.7-11, 15-17.** The apostle John uses the same language of 'light'. *This* world, he makes clear, is darkened, and we are no longer a part of it.

What does John declare in vv.9-11 to be the essence of living as children of light? What might 'loving our brother' involve for us in our fellowship?

What does John suggest in v.16 are characteristic of the darkness of 'the world'? How does this find expression in society today?

**7. Read Ephesians 5.15-17.** Because 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom', our new life through the Spirit is marked by that genuine wisdom.

What do you think Paul means by 'making the most of every opportunity'?

How can we learn to "understand what the Lord's will is"?