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Ephesians - Part 7

In chapter 5, Paul continues to emphasize love. We begin with the last two verses of chapter 4, which illustrate things that love is to replace: **Ephesians 4:31-32**: *31. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking (sayings that injure), be put away from you, with all malice (desire to harm): 32. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, [being gracious] one another, even as God [in] Christ [is gracious to] you.* (other meanings) [more accurate to the original] The Father was in the Son reconciling the world to Himself and showing His love toward humanity (2Cor 5:19).

Ephesians 5:

Verses 1-2: *1. Be ye therefore followers (imitators) of God, as dear children; 2. And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor.* To be an imitator of God is described in the following verses of how we treat people; It is putting the principle of love into action. The Son of God is our example by giving the ultimate sacrifice - his life, like the smell of a sweet odor. Think of any sacrifice you make for the good of others as bringing a pleasant feeling to God, like the sweet smell of flowers nearby creates in you. **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**: *14. and to God [are] thanks, who at all times is leading us in triumph in the Anointed One, and the fragrance of His knowledge He is manifesting through us in every place, 15. because to God we are of Christ a sweet fragrance, in those being saved, and in those being lost; 16. to the one, indeed, a fragrance of death to death, and to the other, a fragrance of life to life; and who is sufficient for these things? 17. for we are not as the many, corrupting the word of God, but as out of sincerity - but as from God; in the presence of God we speak in Christ.* (A more literal translation) Through Christ we are the fruits which carry the truth He has given us. The pure, unadulterated truth is the smell of death to those who do not have ears to hear, but eternal life for those who hear and do.

Verses 3-5: *3. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as become saints (holy ones); 4. Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.* Remember, we are defiled by what comes out of our mouths (Mt 15:11). So, think of these things as inward, in the heart and avoid foolish talking.

Verses 6-7: *6. Let no one deceive you with vain (empty) words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.* What is meant by vain words? **Matthew 5:6**: *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled* (with spiritual knowledge). Compare this with **Luke 1:53**: *He hath filled the hungry with good things* (understanding); *and the rich* (in their own opinions) *he hath sent away* (spiritually) *empty*. Opinions, which are solely from man, leave the soul empty of the concepts needed to sustain spiritual life.

The result is that people are disobedient to the principles of life, and the wrath is in them. God's wrath is His turning away because they refuse to retain and apply God's knowledge in their lives (Rom 1:28). This same idea