

EPHESIANS 7

1. Is the mind of a non-believer on God and eternity?
-No.

2. Where is the mind of a non-believer?
-On this world and that which will disappear and die.

3. Why are non-believers not able to understand the truths of God?
-Because of their hard hearts.

4. How did the hearts of the non-believers become hard?
-By continuing to refuse to listen to God's Words.

5. When we believe in God, what does God give to us?
-God gives us a new mind, the mind of Christ, so that we can know and understand the truths of God.

6. Can the ways of God and the ways of the world walk together?
-No.
-To hold on to the ways of the world is to reject God.

7. As Christians, why should we not trust our own thinking, nor depend on our ways?
-Because our own thinking and our own ways are not from God, and will only cause many problems.

8. What happens when Christians lie?
-We hurt others, we hurt ourselves, and we hurt God.

9. Is it possible to be angry, yet not sin?

-Yes.

-Jesus was angry, but did not sin.

10. What is the difference between anger that is sin and anger that is perfect or righteous?

-Anger that is sin is selfish and wants revenge.

11. How do we give the devil a foothold?

-When we have sinful anger, and do not ask God to forgive us and take away our anger.

12. From where is the bad talk that comes out of our mouths?

-Bad talk that comes out of our mouths is not from God, but rather, from our flesh.

13. How do we stop talking badly to others when they talk badly to us?

-By asking God to respond for us.

-It will also help us not to talk badly to others when we:

-Remember that our talking bad hurts God.

-Remember all that God has done for us.

-Remember that it is not our job to correct people if they do not want to be corrected.

Let's read Ephesians 5:1

1-Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children.

-Before God saved us, we followed Satan's ways, yet now that we are saved, we are to follow God's example.

-Who is God's example?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-Some translations of the verse above say that we are to imitate God.

-Can any human imitate or be like God?

-No.

-The more we learn about God, the more we understand how God is infinitely greater than anyone else.

-The more we learn about God, the more we understand that no one can be like God.

-Then how can we imitate or be like God?

-We allow the Lord Jesus Christ to live His perfect life through us.

-The degree which we allow the Lord Jesus to live His perfect life through us is the same degree that He will do it.

-This is why there are differences among Christians.

-Some Christians allow the Lord Jesus to live only a little of His life through them.

-Other Christians, however, allow the Lord Jesus to live much of His life through them.

-We are totally dependent on the Lord Jesus to help us to be like God.

-To what degree will the Lord Jesus help us to be like God?

-To the degree that we ask Him.

-Here is an illustration:

-A man was born, grew up, and lived in the bush in Africa for many years.

-One day, he was taken out of the bush, put on an airplane, and brought to America.

-Would it be difficult for this man to change from a life in the bush to life in America?

-Yes.

-Before Christ saved us, we were members of Satan's family.

-We followed Satan's way of thinking, speaking, and living our lives.

-Now that we are members of God's family, is it easy to change?

-No.

-We still have old habits and old ways which the Bible calls the flesh, and which still hurt us.

-Yet, we are more than conquerors because:

-God our Father looks after us, His children.

-Christ our Brother will live His life through us.

-God the Holy Spirit will never leave us.

-The degree which we allow God to live His perfect life through us is the same degree that He will do it.

Let's read Ephesians 5:1-2

1-Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children,

2-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.

-In verse 2 above, God and Paul are asking us to walk in love just as Christ loved us.

-How is the love of the flesh different from the love of Christ?

-The love of the flesh is a selfish love, wanting only to receive.

-The love of Christ, however, is a love that is totally unselfish, wanting only to give.

-The love of Christ gives to others no matter what others do to you.

-The greatest example of the love of Christ which gives to others no matter what others do to you is His death on the cross.

-Is there any way that Christians or anyone else can have this love by themselves?

-No.

-This love can only come from God, and it is our responsibility to ask our God for His love in our lives.

-What does fragrant offering in the Bible teach us?

-Fragrant offering teaches us that God is well pleased and welcomes or accepts the individual with all His heart.

-How is Christ a fragrant offering to God?

-When Jesus gave His life for us as a sacrifice on the cross, God the Father was totally pleased.

-If we allow the love of Jesus to control our lives, then we will please God.

-If we allow the love of Jesus to control our lives, others will be drawn to Jesus in us like a fragrant aroma.

Let's read Ephesians 5:3-4

3-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.

4-Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

-Before people become Christians, sexual immorality, impurity, and greed were very strong forces in their lives.

-Even after people become Christians, sexual immorality, impurity, and greed continue to be very strong forces in our lives.

-Why do God and Paul write that sin should not even have a small part of our lives?

-Because sin is improper for God's holy people.

-Because sin spears us, and wants to kill us.

-While Christians have been given a new heart by Christ, we can and do sometimes offer our bodies to sin.

-It is better for our hearts if we offer our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness instead of to the evil desires of sin.

-We should also offer to God the control of our tongues.

-What is the cure for obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking?

-Giving thanks to God for all that He has done for us.

-You will be surprised how the medicine of giving thanks to God cures not only the tongue, but also a sad heart.

-Even if we do not feel like thanking God, if we ask God to help us to do so, you will be surprised how much you will be encouraged.

Let's read Ephesians 5:5

5-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.

-Are people who are controlled by sin and continually sin God's children?

-No.

-Those who are still controlled by sin and still continually sin will not go to heaven.

-Even though Christians sin, what is the difference between Christians and non-Christians?

-Christians do not continually sin.

-Why do Christians not continually sin?

-Because Christ has given us a new heart, a new mind of Christ, and the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

-Here is an illustration:

-If you are walking in the rain, and fall down into the mud, do you stay in the mud?

-No.

-You stand up quickly and try to wipe the mud off of your hands and clothes.

-You are not happy to be muddy, and want to be cleansed of the mud.

-As for pigs, however, they love the mud.

-Pigs prefer the mud, and live and sleep in the mud.

-Even if you wash a pig, it will soon return to the mud.

-This teaches us the difference between the children of God and the children of Satan.

-Sometimes the children of God fall into the mud of sin.

-Sometimes they may even choose to go into the mud of sin.

-Yet, because God has given us a new heart, the new mind of Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we are not happy in the mud of sin, and want to be cleansed from it.

-The children of Satan are different.

-They love to stay in the mud of sin because of their evil

nature.

-This is why they will not go to heaven, as our God will allow no mud of sin in His presence.

Let's read Ephesians 5:6

6-Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

-Some people think that no one will be punished for their sins because God loves all people.

-It is very true that God loves all people.

-Yet it is also very true that God is very holy, and therefore, God must punish every sin with death.

-God's holiness requires that every sin be punished with death so that God does not lose His holiness.

-How do we know that God will punish the sins of people with death?

-During the flood, every human being on the entire earth died except for Noah and his family.

-At the time of Sodom and Gomorrah, everyone in the two cities died except for Lot and his two daughters.

-During the first Passover, all of the firstborn in Egypt

died.

-When Israel left Egypt, the entire army of Pharaoh that followed Israel into the Red Seas died.

-In the desert when Israel complained, many died until Moses was able to put the bronze serpent up on a pole.

-After Israel crossed the Jordan river and took Jericho, Achan took that which God forbid, and Achan with all of his family and cattle were stoned to death.

Let's read Ephesians 5:7

7-Therefore do not be partners with them.

-If your children chose to be friends with your enemies, would you feel betrayed?

-Yes.

-If a man found his wife sleeping with another man, would he feel betrayed?

-Yes.

-If Christians join with God's enemies and disobey Him, would God feel betrayed?

-Yes.

-Just as people can betray other people, we can also betray our God by partnering or joining with God's enemies.

-If we can remember that sin hurts our God, and that we may betray Him when we join with His enemies, this will help us to cry out to God that this will not happen.

Let's read Ephesians 5:8

8-For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

-What does the Word of God mean when it says that we "were once darkness"?

-Before God saved us, we were evil and dark, controlled by sin and Satan.

-What does the Word of God mean when it says that now we "are light in the Lord"?

-Because God has saved us from the kingdom of Satan and darkness, the light of God lives in us.

-When Christ was transfigured on the mountain, God the Father who was on the inside shined out to the outside.

-As Christians, we should allow Christ who is on the inside to shine out to the outside.

Let's read Ephesians 5:9-10

9 -(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

10-And find out what pleases the Lord.

-What is the fruit of the light of Christ in all Christians?
-Goodness, righteousness, and truth.

-Goodness is given to us by God when we believe, yet it is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit that should be a daily part of our lives.

-Righteousness is also given to us by God when we believe, yet it is also a fruit of Christ that should be a daily part of our lives.

-Truth is God and God is truth, and if we are completely abandoned to our God, there will be no lies in us.

-All Christians bear fruit according to the degree or measure that we allow the light of Christ to shine out in our lives.

-And the more that we try to understand what pleases our Lord, the more that His light will shine out through us.

Let's read Ephesians 5:11a

11-Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness.

-Should Christians join together with non-believers in their evil ways?

-No.

-Is anything done by the children of Satan acceptable to

God?

-No.

-Here is an illustration:

-If a gardener finds a tree that does not produce fruit, what does he do with the tree?

-He cuts it down.

-The Word of God says that non-believers are like trees which do not produce fruit.

-In Matthew 3:10, John the Baptist said this about non-believers:

-“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

-Some Christians think that after they become Christians, they can join non-believers because they are more powerful than sin.

-Are Christians more powerful than sin?

-No.

-Before salvation and after salvation, only God is more powerful than sin.

-This is why Christians can fall into sin after they believe in Christ.

-This is also why the Word of God writes much to Christians, begging us not to have anything to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness or sin.

-What should we do instead of joining the unsaved in their evil ways?

Let's read Ephesians 5:11b-13

11-But rather expose them.

12-It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

13-But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

-Instead of joining the unsaved in their evil ways, what does the Word of God tell us to do?

-We should rather expose sin.

-To ignore sin is to encourage sin.

-To keep quiet about sin is to encourage sin.

-To fail to expose sin shows a lack of love for others.

-To fail to expose sin is to disobey God.

-If we do not expose sin, then people will think that sin is acceptable.

-If we do not expose sin, then people may not know that

it is sin that condemns people to death.

-How do we expose the evil ways of the unsaved?

-With the Word of God, and with our own testimony.

-The Word of God, when spoken out loud, is very powerful.

-God only spoke, and with His words He created the world.

-When Satan tempted Christ, the Lord Jesus defeated Satan by speaking the Word of God.

-When the Lord Jesus healed people, He only needed to speak the Word of God to them.

-When the Lord Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He only needed to speak the Word of God to him.

-Satan and evil are not more powerful than the Word of God.

-This is because the Word of God and God are one and the same.

-One of the reasons the Lord Jesus sent the Holy Spirit into the world was to expose sin.

Let's read John 16:7-8

7-[Jesus said]: “But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8-When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”

-Our own testimony will also help to expose sin and evil.

-Living in obedience to God is a testimony against evil.

-When non-believers see that our lives are full of God, this is a testimony that there is a difference, and that the difference is God.

-Yet, does God only want us to expose their sin and leave them helpless?

-No.

-We must not only expose their sin, but also help them to understand that they can be saved from sin and death through the Lord Jesus.

-Although they are separated from God, they can receive eternal life through the Lord Jesus.

-Even though Christians should expose the sins of the unsaved, should we discuss their evil ways?

-No.

-We should only talk about them in order to expose them to bring repentance in the lives of the unsaved.

Let's read Ephesians 5:14

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

-This letter of Ephesians is written to Christians who have been saved.

-Yet Paul is writing that which is written in Isaiah 60, urging non-believers to wake up from the darkness of death unto the light of Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 5:15-17

15-Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,

16-Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

17-Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

-We are wise when we take time to learn about God and study His Word.

-We are foolish when we spend little time with God.

-Since we do not know how many more days we will live on earth, we should use our time to learn about God.

-What is God's will for us all?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's read Ephesians 5:18

18-Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

-In Bible times, drinking water was not clean, and therefore, people drank wine.

-The wine in the times of the Bible, however, had very little alcohol in it.

-While the Word of God does not condemn drinking wine, it does condemn getting drunk.

-When people are drunk, what do they do?

-Foolish and evil things.

-When talking about alcohol, here are a few questions that should be asked:

-Will it hurt me?

-Will it hurt others?

-Will it hurt my Christian testimony?

-If alcohol causes any hurt, then it should be left alone.

-Instead of being controlled by alcohol, what does God command Christians to do?

-To be filled with the Holy Spirit.

-What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

-Pentecost was the first time that all believers were filled by the Holy Spirit.

-As 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 6:19 teach us, the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians.

-As 1 Corinthians 12:13 teaches us, all believers have been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

-Is the Holy Spirit living in us and being baptized by the Holy Spirit one and the same truth?

-Yes.

-Since all Christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians, what is the meaning of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

-To be filled with the Spirit means to continually allow God on the inside to have continual, complete control of our lives.

-To be filled by the Spirit means to be moved by God alone, much like the wind moves the sail of a boat.

-To be filled by the Spirit means to allow God to penetrate all of your life, much like salt penetrates meat.

-To be filled by the Spirit means to allow God to have total control of your life, much like a king has total control of his subjects.

-Our example, of course, is the Lord Jesus Christ who said that He could do nothing apart from the Father (John 5:19 & 5:30).

-Here is an illustration:

-Can a glove do anything by itself if the hand on the inside is not working?

-No.

-In this illustration, Christians are the glove on the outside, and the Holy Spirit is the hand on the inside.

-To be filled with the Spirit means the death of self so that God would have control.

-If we ask God to help us to die to self, then our lives will be filled with the Spirit.

-As John the Baptist said about Jesus: “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

-To be filled with the Spirit means to be filled with the Word of God.

-As Colossians 3:16 teaches us, “Let the Word of Christ richly dwell with you.”

-This is why it is important to memorize the Word of God.

-To be filled with the Spirit means to always be aware that Christ walks with us, and that we would surrender every thought, every word, and every step to Him.

Let's read Ephesians 5:19

19-Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.

-People who believe in God sing to God.

-Not because we must, but rather because we want to as a way of thanking God for what He has done for us.

-When God saved Israel out of Egypt, the Israelites sang a song to God.

-When Deborah and Barak saved Israel from the Canaanites, they sang a song to God.

-Before Jesus and His disciples left for the Garden of Gethsemane, they sang a hymn together.

-In the verse above, the Word of God teaches us that singing to the Lord speaks not only to our own hearts, but also the hearts of our fellow Christians.

-In heaven, we will sing to our God until the end of eternity.

Let's read Ephesians 5:20

20-always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-How are we able to always give thanks to our God?

-By understanding all that He has done for us.

-If we understand that God alone has given us life, then we can always give thanks to Him.

-If we can understand that God alone has given us the ability to breathe and think and speak and walk, then we can always give thanks to Him.

-If we can understand that Christ's death on the cross has saved us from eternal death, then we can always give thanks to Him.

-Why do we as Christians sometimes have a difficult time giving thanks to God?

-Because we forget all that God has done for us.

-Because we allow our problems to become more important than our faith in God.

-In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, the Word of God encourages us to give thanks to God in all circumstances.

-Why should we give thanks to God even when we have problems?

-Because we know that God has allowed our problems so that we will become more like Jesus.

Let's read Ephesians 5:21

21-Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

-Finally, if we are controlled by the Spirit, we will be humble and submit to one another as to the Lord.

-Then, we will not have a hard heart nor be proud.