



## The Power of Sacrifice

February 11, 2018

### 1. Members of One Another – *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

<sup>25</sup> Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. <sup>26</sup> Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup> and give no opportunity to the devil. <sup>28</sup> Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. <sup>29</sup> Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup> Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. <sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

<sup>5</sup> <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.

### 2. Imitate God – *Ephesians 5:1*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

- We are called to imitate God because we are His sons and daughters
- We were once orphans, and now we are beloved children
- If we're going to be power couples, we should be powerful followers of Jesus. Be like our Father!

### 3. Walk in Love – *Ephesians 5:2a*

<sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us,...

- Love is always putting the best interest of others above your own.
- If we are not walking in love, we're not just harming others, we're harming ourselves
- This is love: not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10)

### 4. Offer Yourselves – *Ephesians 5:2b*

...a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- ...but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)
- We should freely offer ourselves as a sacrifice to our God, our spouse, one another, and to our world
- What would happen in our marriages if we offered ourselves up, and gave up the right to be right?

*For reflection and small group discussion:*

 **Read *Matthew 28:19-20*, and listen as your leader reviews the purpose of our gathering.**  
*Reflect on these verses which exhort us to pursue God's purpose as we gather in our cells.*

**Hearing from God Together - *Worship*.** Spend a little time listening to a song, singing together, or reading a psalm. Have you heard from God this week? Is God giving you a word to share with an individual or your cell group?

 **Building Up One Another in the Word**

**READ *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*. As you read,**

**REFLECT** – Meditate on the passage and ask questions. What is the context of the passage? Enter into the Biblical scene in order to “see” the setting, the people, and the unfolding action. What are some words and phrases that the Holy Spirit is drawing my attention to? Do I know what the words and phrases mean? Do I understand what the Holy Spirit is saying through these verses?

**RESPOND** – What do you feel? Read this passage and look for how it speaks to your life. What specific situation in your life today relates to this passage? Are there beliefs, attitudes, or practices I need to adjust to deepen my relationship with Christ? Respond very specifically to what God has revealed to you in Scripture that speaks to your life. This is your personal response to the text: asking for graces, offering praise or thanksgiving, seeking healing or forgiveness. In this prayerful engagement with the text, you open yourself to the presence of God.

**REST** – Read the passage again, but this time, rest in God's presence in what He has spoken to you about your life through Scripture. Simply rest in the fact that God has spoken to you. Worship God for speaking to you and find strength, encouragement and hope, knowing you have just heard God; you have come into experiential contact with the One behind and beyond the text.

### ***Reflection Questions***

1. When was the last time you were offended? Did you claim a right to be offended? Do you think we ever offend God? What did He do about it?
2. What did your parents sacrifice for you? What have you sacrificed for your marriage? For your family? Have your sacrifices been out of love for them?
3. Does love always include a sacrifice of some sort? Why do you think that is? Will love involve sacrifice in Heaven?
4. Read Ephesians 4:25-32. What does it mean to speak the truth with your neighbor? How are we members of one another?
5. Is it possible to be angry and not sin? Can you share an example of anger without sin?
6. What does Paul mean by “corrupting talk”? Have you heard any corrupting talk today? What is the opposite of corrupting talk?
7. How would we grieve the Holy Spirit? Why would He grieve over us?
8. How would you contrast v. 31 and v. 32? Can you choose to live v. 31 or v. 32? What would it take?
9. Read Ephesians 5:1-2. How can we be imitators of the Creator and Supreme King of the Universe?
10. Does Eph 5:2 explain how we can do Eph. 5:1? What is God asking you to do in the areas of love and sacrifice?

*If you would like to be a part of a small group at NorthWood Church, called a T-Life Group, stop by the Information Center in the Village or contact us at [TLifeGroups@NorthWoodChurch.org](mailto:TLifeGroups@NorthWoodChurch.org).*