



A Word For Your Day

June 16, 2013

Convenient For The Gospel



Ephesians 5:1-5 Be ye therefore followers 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 sweetsmelling savour. (3) But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (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.

Not too long ago, I published a Bible Study on the subject of "Convenience" in the sense of **putting off Godly decisions** for a more convenient time. **However**, this study is talking about **doing things that are not convenient for the Gospel**.

At one time or the other, we all have said or done something foolish that made the sharing of our faith almost impossible, at least, for that time. It could have been some hateful word, or purposely cutting off someone in line, or even some joke that we wished that we had never told. Instead, of making the opportunity convenient for sharing Jesus, it became a time of embarrassing silence. Later we would seek God's forgiveness for our little blunder. But, even though we would be forgiven, we still had lost one more opportunity to share the Gospel of the Lord.

1 John 1:7-10 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Ephesians 5:1 Starts out saying **"Be ye therefore followers of God"**. The word "followers" here is from the Greek word ***Mim-ay-tace*** which means to be an **imitator of God**. **We are told to imitate God**. In some ways, this is a pretty tall order! Be Like Jesus! Jesus even said this in another way.

John 14:12 **Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father**

I can almost hear some people say, **"You can't do what Jesus did, why that's bad doctrine."** But, I think that a good response to that statement should be, **no, it is your bad unbelief!** **If (1) God commands it in Ephesians 5:1, and (2) Jesus fore tells it in John 14:12, then what right do you have to call God the Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit, the writer of the Holy Scriptures, — liars? To me, this would frighten me to no end.**

In Ephesians 5:1-5, the list of things that are not "Convenient" for the preaching of the Cross, is very impressive. But negative things tend to turn people off. So, Just don't do them - Hey, that will work! But the list of positive things are even more impressive. (1) Be ye therefore followers of God, (2) And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, but (3) rather giving of thanks;

These things, **if we will do them**, they will keep us busy until Jesus comes for His Bride.

But **(1) Fornication, (2) uncleanness, (3) covetousness, (4) filthiness, (5) foolish talking, (6) jesting**, These all belong in the trash can..

jesting

filthiness

covetousness

foolish talking

uncleanness

Fornication

