The Book of Ephesians - Chapters 4 & 5

1. Ephesians 4:25-5:2. Since Ephesians 4:17, we are being given the Rule of Jesus. Unlike that of monasteries, this Rule isn't so that you can stay in – for you are and will be staying in – but so that you can grow and thrive as God intends you to do.

2. AND it means that the kingdom will spread much more quickly because Christians are different, visible, and good.

3. We get this way by stepping away from the throne in our hearts and putting God there, instead. Far from being an act of sacrifice and a burden, making God the king of your life is an act of liberation.

4. When God is your king, you don't have to be your own king. You are free to forgive, to move, to change things, and to share with others. You are too busy giving and loving to grab and demand. Ephesians 4: 25-5:2.

5. Note how all of these are showing you how to walk now that you know who you are, whose you are, who is in charge of the universe and your body and mind, and your security in him. Now that you are free from having to prove yourself, build yourself up, and enhance your reputation, you can build someone else up, love on them, and help them win the day.

6. For it is all about knowing who you are and who God is…and that informing the way you walk.

7. Let us walk as children of light, as safe places and thin places, as living temples of God. As people who have nothing to prove and nothing to fear for we are seated at the Table with God.

8. And this allows us to gain the power of submission. Yes, we gain power by submitting because submission releases us from a master that will never be satisfied with anything we do for it: the god we see in the mirror. Now, we serve a God who loves us and is pleased with us. Ephesians 5:3-7 is all about not committing adultery by serving a god that isn't God the Father, Yahweh, Jehovah God. (it's about

sexual activity, too, but we often miss the fact that adultery is more than sex)

9. The WWJD fad has passed a long time ago, long before some of you were born. Still, it was a valid and very helpful exercise in community cohesion by pulling us back to "what would Jesus do?" It got spoiled, as things often do, when people used it to push their own politics or projects. So, we got "who would Jesus bomb" to "what would Jesus drive." As valid as concern for peace over war and protecting the environment are…that is not what Paul is calling us to here. Eph. 5:8.

10. We are to walk as children of light. If you meet my son, you will know he is mine. We do not look much alike but our similarities run deep. A couple of the grands are the same. People who don't know them (only see their pic), they see no resemblance. Those who've been around them for a time, see it!

11. Following Jesus and the Jesus way is to consume us. We are to be so strange to the world that we are considered drunk…with the Spirit (5:15-21). Walking in wisdom with your eyes wide open and in submission to God is so different from the way the world lives that it views US as the strange ones when we are the only ones living in the Light of the Ultimate Reality.

12. One way this manifests itself is in the gift of submission (5:21). Now…take a new look at the much loved and much reviled last portion of chapter 5. (use the little words here to transform your marriage).

13. Submission to each other is a sign that Christ is in you, for Christ submitted to the Father and became one of us, lowered himself. He took the basin and washed his disciples' feet. He touched the leper. He protected the woman caught in adultery, sought out the Samaritan woman, and stepped between the mob and his friends.

14. It may be the gift no one wants (a call back to Paul Brand and the gift of pain) but it saves our spiritual lives and those who see us and follow.