

# “Divine Love”

## Immeasurably More #5 • Ephesians 5

### INTRODUCTION

In chapter 5 of Ephesians Paul continues to exhort the church to reflect Christ in their lives. This means they are to “walk in love as Christ loved us.” This study considers how divine love is perceived. What does it look like, feel like, sound and smell like to walk in divine love. The Bible gives us insight into how we can “make sense” of divine love.

#### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Which of these senses do you most closely associate with your mother; her touch, her voice, her perfume, or her cooking?

### Study Questions (45 MIN)

#### Making “Sense” of Divine Love

##### **It smells good**

#### **Q1. Read Ephesians 5:1-2; Leviticus 1:8-9; Ephesians 5:3-6**

We are created to experience life through a variety of our senses. In Eph 5:2 Christ’s loving sacrifice for us is called a fragrant<sup>1</sup> offering. Who is it in Lev 1:9 that finds the aroma of an offering pleasing? Why do you think God perceives sacrifice as sweet and pleasant?

In contrast, Ephesians 5:3-6 warns against all impurity<sup>2</sup>. What odors do you associate with impurity or filthiness? What are the qualities or actions listed in these verses that repulse God? Have you grown less sensitive to some of these due to prolonged exposure? If so, how can you regain God’s perspective?

<sup>1</sup>*euōdia* -sweet smelling thing, incense, or odour or something sweet smelling

<sup>2</sup> *akatharsia* -impurity (the quality), physically or morally;—uncleanliness.

##### **It looks good**

#### **Q2. Read Ephesians 5:7-14; John 3:19-21**

In Eph 5:7-14 Paul focuses on the contrast between light and darkness. What is the “fruit” of light listed in verse 9? How does John 3:20 explain the reason someone would choose to stay in darkness? John 3:21 makes it clear where the good fruits of the light come from. What good fruit of God’s doing have you seen come to light in someone’s life recently?

##### **It sounds good**

#### **Q3. Read 2Peter 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 1 Peter 2:15; Ephesians 5:15-20**

To truly be imitators of Christ (Eph 5:1) we need to understand what His will is. In the passages above what are some things listed that we can know with certainty are the will of God? What are some of the ways you seek to know God’s will?

Eph 5:18 tells us to be filled continually with the Spirit. What do verses 19 and 20 list as natural results of being filled with God’s Spirit? When do you most feel moved by the Spirit to sing in this way?

##### **It feels good**

#### **Q4. Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9**

We are well served to begin with a look at this entire passage of Eph 5:21-6:9 in context. There are many roles and relationships listed. What responsibility does the husband have toward his wife in Eph 5:25-31? As the wife of a husband who faithfully executes this charge, what feelings would you expect as a natural response? In such an environment of self-sacrificing love, would it be difficult to give this man respect and submit to his authority in the marriage relationship? Paul tells us this is a depiction of Christ and his bride, the church. Each one of us is called to place ourselves in submission to the authority of Christ. Reread this passage, noting aloud all the ways Jesus modeled the role of a husband.

#### **Wrap-Up**

It is impossible for us to comprehend the immeasurable love God has for us. But the Bible shows us that we can experience it through a variety of ways. We can receive the loving sacrifice of Jesus as a sweet fragrance, unlike the repulsive odor of sin. When we walk in God’s light, we are fruitful and produce all that is good and right and true. Paul also refers to a variety of musical expressions springing out of a filling by God’s Spirit, through which we may thank and praise God in all things. And when we walk in submission, and fulfill the responsibilities God has called us to, we will feel cared for and cherished just as God cherishes His bride, the church.

#### **Memory Verse**

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us...*

*Ephesians 5:1-2a ESV*

#### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes)* \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge:** *Take time this week to recognize all the ways God has expressed His love to you, through nature, circumstances, and people in your life.*

