

EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

Similar to last week, today's passage in Ephesians is challenging. Today Paul will call us to something that isn't easy. Specifically, in today's passage, we're called to be people who live lives full of love and light. As those dearly loved by God and transformed by His love, we should, in turn, be people marked by love.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:1-16

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. In verse 1, Paul calls us, as followers of Christ, to imitate God in everything we do. How often do you measure your words, thoughts, and actions by this calling? How are we tempted to limit the scope of this calling in our lives?
3. In light of our calling to imitate God, Paul points us toward Christ. Why is Christ the best example to follow to imitate God (John 14:9-11)? What does Paul specifically highlight about the life of Christ? List some examples from the life of Jesus where we see Him demonstrate love to others.
4. What would it look like for you to live a life filled with love in the workplace, at home, in the church, etc.? Why is this such a challenge at times? What can we do to position our hearts best to live a life filled with love (in real life every day)? List some examples of what it would look like to choose love instead of unrighteous anger, jealousy, or revenge in your daily life as you interact with others.
5. In verses 3-9, Paul says that we shouldn't make any room in our lives for sexual immorality, impurity, obscene stories, foolish talk, coarse jokes, or greed. How can these sins so easily creep into our lives?
6. What does the world say about each of the sinful behaviors mentioned above? What does the Bible say these behaviors bring into our lives? Why do you think Paul contrasts these various sinful behaviors with thankfulness to God? How can thankfulness steer us in the direction of light rather than darkness?
7. In verses 10-16, Paul calls us to make careful determinations about our lives when it comes to pleasing the Lord. What does the word "carefully" imply? Why does Paul say, "take no part" in worthless deeds of evil? What makes a deed worthless or evil? On the other hand, what makes a deed good?
8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?