

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 5:3-14 Paul uses a 2-sided “then and now” description to explain a believer’s relationship to darkness and light.

- I. You were once darkness, so do not partner with darkness (vs. 7-8a).
 - A. Evil to eliminate (vs. 3-4).
 - B. Condemnation to consider (vs. 5, 6b).
 - C. Deception to discern (v. 6a).
- II. You are now light in the Lord, so walk as children of light (v. 8b, c).
 - A. Producing (v. 9).
 - B. Discerning (v. 10).
 - C. Exposing (vs. 11-14)

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 23, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 5:3-14

Memory Passage: Ephesians 5:3-14 (review 1:1-5:2)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:3-14.** Explain the difference between the three things prohibited in v. 3.
- (b) What does Paul mean when he says these things “must not be named” among Christians? Does this mean we are never to speak of any of these sins? If so, how would we teach Paul’s command, or for that matter, is Paul violating his own command?
- (c) Why is not naming these things “proper among the saints?” What determines its properness?
- (d) Explain each of the prohibitions in v. 4. How are they different? How are they the same? How do they relate to v. 3?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 5:3-14.** For what are we to be thankful as we replace the improper activities of v. 4 with thanksgiving?
- (b) What is the end result for those who are unrepentant in sexual sin (vs. 5-6)? Notice the connection between the trio of vices in v. 3 and the trio of people in v. 5.
- (c) Is the covetousness mentioned in these verses limited to sexual sin (the context) or does it include all forms of coveting (the meaning of the word)? On what basis did you make your decision?
- (d) Can a believer be included in the condemnation of v. 6? How do you apply verses 3-6 to those struggling with sexual sin (i.e. how often must one sin to qualify for God’s wrath, what does repentance have to do with your application, how do you evaluate repentance, what role does the church play, what role does “deception” with “empty words” [v. 6] play, etc.)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 5:3-14.** What does it mean to “partner” (v. 7) with the people of vs. 5-6?
- (b) Upon what basis does Paul forbid partnership with those actively pursuing disobedience to Christ (“for” in v. 8)?
- (c) Explain how believers are “light in the Lord.”
- (d) Explain the meaning of v. 9, and how it informs how we are to accomplish obedience to vs. 8b & 10.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 5:3-14.** Why do works of light produce fruit (v. 9) but works of darkness produce unfruitfulness (v. 11)?
- (b) In what ways does walking “as children of light” allow us to “discern what is pleasing to the Lord?” Be specific, using examples from your own life. These examples could be positive (your walk led to discerning) or negative (your walk did not).
- (c) What does it mean to “expose” works of darkness? Does the context support exposing believers, non-believers, or both?
- (d) Explain vs. 12-14. Be sure to explain how the “for” in v. 12 connects it to v. 11, in what ways exposing is opposite to speaking (v. 13 begins with “but”), how darkness becomes light when it is revealed, and the function of “therefore” (v. 14).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 5:3-14.** The following questions are intended to force you to think through the implications of obeying these verses, and to discuss them in class. They are not intended to be exhaustive, but to start thinking and conversation.
- (b) In what ways will a church living in obedience to these commands affect the culture? In what ways will the culture respond to the church, and how will the church prepare for and respond to this response? How do believers stay “in, but not of, the world” while obeying these commands (total retreat from lost people is not an option in the NT!)? Etc., etc., etc.
- (c) How does the church go about “exposing” these dark deeds when they are done by covenant members of the body, and for what purposes do we do this? How does the church teach a full, beautiful, holy view of sex while still obeying these commands? How does the church welcome those who have been caught up in sexual sin and still remain faithful to these commands? How do “empty words” bring difficulty into a church body? Etc., etc., etc.?

DATE: July 23, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:3-14

Walking as Children of Light