

Ephesians 5:1-20

Week 9 - Living out the Love of Christ in the Light

Being Renewed: Revisited

? What did we talk about last week?

Ephesians 5:1-20 (NIV)

¹Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person -- such a person is an idolater -- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them. ⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible - and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

? In verse 1, Paul challenges the Ephesian church to 'walk in the way of love'. What truths and verses from earlier chapters, Ephesians 1-4, give us motivation to 'walk in the way of love'?

Walk as Children of the Light

Option #1: Hand every group a small piece of paper. Read Ephesians 5:1-2 again. Ask each member to write a summary of these verses in their own words. Ask the groups to share their summaries.

Option #2: Have each group ask the following question for some of these items bullet-pointed below. Break the list down & delegate 1-3 per group depending how many groups you break into. After the groups have taken 3-4 min to discuss, ask the groups to share with the whole group.

Q: How does _____ not fit in with “walking in the way of love” or being God’s “holy people”?

- Sexual immorality (v. 3)
- Impurity (v. 3)
- Greed (v. 3)
- Obscenity (v. 4)
- Foolish Talk (v. 4)
- Coarse Joking (v. 4)

? Why do you think Paul wants the Ephesians to be sure (v.5) & not deceived (v.6) of these things?

? What are examples of how you’ve seen your fellow small group members live as children of light?

? What do these examples teach us about what is pleasing to the Lord?

Called to Worship

? What hope does Paul offer in having fruitless deeds exposed? How does this encourage you?

? What does it mean for us to live wisely & not foolishly during “days that are evil”?

? Why does Paul offer Spirit-filled, communal worship through song & thanksgiving as a contrasting action to drunkenness, foolishness, and evil?

For Discussion And Accountability

Option #1: Work through the following set of conversational questions in regards to worship:

? What is a song that leads you to worship God from the heart? What does the song say about God?

? What specific things make you feel more worshipful?

? What has private worship of God looked like for you?

Option #2: Sing a worship song or recite a Psalm together as a group.

We have provided a couple worship song options with a YouTube link & lyrics on the last page of this document. If you or your small group has some specific song(s) that you'd like to do, then go ahead and do those!

Psalm 28

¹ To you, LORD, I call; you are my Rock, do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you remain silent, I will be like those who go down to the pit. ² Hear my cry for mercy, as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place. ³ Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. ⁴ Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. ⁵ Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again. ⁶ Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. ⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. ⁸ The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. ⁹ Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Accountability Questions

? Which of the themes we discussed tonight spoke most into a growth area? How so?

? What steps of growth in your personal worship could we pray over tonight?

**In Christ Alone
(According to Lauren Daigle)**

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song

This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My Comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I'll stand

Ooh, Ooh

There in the ground, his body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth, in glorious day
Up from the grave, he rose again

And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His, and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

Ooh, Ooh

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me

From life's first cry, to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand

Till He returns, or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Till He returns, or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

**The Solid Rock
(According to Hope Hymns)**

My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly lean on Jesus' name

When darkness veils his lovely face
I rest on his unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

His oath, his covenant, his blood,
Support me in the whelming flood
When all around my soul gives way
He then is all my hope and stay

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in his righteousness alone
Faultless to stand before the throne

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand