

Sunnyside Church Study Questions

Series: Made for More

Sermon: Imitate Christ *not* Culture | **Date:** 3.1.26

Speaker: Pastor DJ Vick

Ephesians 5:1-21

Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children² and 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.

³ But 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. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. ⁵ For 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. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

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

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Questions:

#1. For review, can you recall the 4 key identity statements for us in Christ for Eph. 1:1-14?

Hint: Chosen – Adopted – Redeemed - & Marked

Why are these significant for us to remember?

#2. As you read the above passage together what stood out to you (personally)?

#3. In verses 3-7, why do you think Paul makes such emphasis on keeping sexually immorality (Greek – *porneia*), where we get the word pornography, out of lives completely?

To imitate Jesus, we need to practice gratitude and not give in to greed. How can gratitude help us keep in pure place with God?

#4. In verses 8-14, the Scripture reminds us as God's people we are "light in the Lord" "live as children of light." It is significant that it reminds us of our new identity. What's a practical way you can live as a child of the light this week, rather than in darkness?

To imitate Jesus, we need to embrace our new identity (who God says we are) and not what the world calls us.

#5. In verses 15-21, the passage instructs us to live in wisdom, to know God's will, and to be filled (continually) with the Holy Spirit.

- A. Why would some turn to drunkenness (debauchery) instead of God?
- B. How can we be confident that we are filled with the Spirit?
 - a. This passage shows us that the Holy Spirit will help us live a more intentional life for God. Did you know that?
- C. 19-21, how does it specifically describe what the Spirit-**led** life can look like?

#6. This passage, most likely, revealed some things we need to repent of or calls us to a Spirit-filled life, which is it for you?