



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“EPHESIANS 4:25-5:2” ON OCTOBER 13-16, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 4:25-5:2

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 4:25-5:2 Paul’s letter to the Ephesian church has been filled with assurances of God’s love for them, providing a doctrinal foundation to understand His grace and mercy toward them. Desiring for the Ephesians to understand the importance of unity in the body of believers – the church – Paul in this passage encourages them to represent God’s beauty in the world around them, and that requires intentional seeking of nourishment for their minds and hearts by living in close proximity to our Caretaker – God Himself. How do we do that?

GETTING CLOSE TO THE CARETAKER: If we will seek Him, intentionally getting closer to God, He will transform us! Loving God and Loving People = Transformation of our own lives and the lives of others! Transformation involves changing the way we once responded to the world around us and adopting a new perspective – Christ’s perspective! Paul addressed how we deal with TRUTH, ANGER, STEALING, and UNWHOLESOME TALK – let’s unpack how our lives are challenged in each of those areas.

- Why does Paul mention speaking truthfully to others? How does truthfulness matter in the unity of the church body and in the spreading of the gospel to those around us? Do you ever struggle with being completely truthful? In today’s culture, how do we even know what truth is?
- How does Paul’s reference to dealing with anger influence your perspective on your own reactions to anger – does this passage help shape your own ability or intentions to manage your anger in healthy ways or to recognize weaknesses you might have in this area? How do you differentiate between righteous anger and other kinds of anger? How can we pray about dealing with anger in our lives?
- Paul speaks of stealing (or any sin we were living as our ‘old selves’ that took something away from others)– and encourages the Ephesians to work to be useful – to be generous toward others. How would you rate your attitude of generosity in general? How could you be more intentional about living with a spirit of generosity as you love people?
- Paul also mentions corrupt or unwholesome talk - what does the balance in your own life look like in terms of missing or ignoring opportunities to encourage and build up others around you, compared to how well you do at investing in others with words of encouragement, time spent together, walking through difficult times with them, etc.? What differences would you hope to see if you were more intentional about speaking life into others?

GUARD AGAINST GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT; BE AN IMITATOR OF GOD! What does a life that is imitating Christ look like to the rest of the world?

- What is your understanding of what it means to grieve the Holy Spirit, and why does that matter?
- Are you pleasing or grieving the Holy Spirit by your actions on a daily basis? What might you need to remove from your life in order to not grieve the Holy Spirit?
- God created us to represent His beauty, and we can do that by imitating Him and being in close proximity to Him! How does Paul’s letter to the Ephesians challenge and encourage you to grow in this area of your spiritual journey?
- What steps could you take in your daily lives to be in closer proximity to the One who created you so that you can Love God and Love People in transformational ways?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.