



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

"EPHESIANS 5:3-21" ON OCTOBER 20-23, 2022

CONNECT

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

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 5:3-21

- 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 Ephesians 5:1-21: Paul continues his exhortation to the Ephesian believers, encouraging them to be imitators of God, to walk in love as Christ loved us, and to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. What does all that look like in our lives? Paul gives examples of what NOT to do, urging us to 'wake up' and look carefully at how we are walking! He wants the best possible situations to happen for the church to thrive!

THE ENEMY: Who is 'the enemy?' Is it the people who don't agree with you, who are not walking with Christ and are making decisions you question? Is it people who reject your religious beliefs? Who IS the true enemy?

- Who DO we think 'the enemy' is? What did Jason in his sermon have to say about who the 'Real Enemy' is – what is his nature, how does he go about his business, and what outcomes does he love to see?
- How does the enemy encourage us to live according to his deceptive ways? What does that look like in each of our personal lives? What is the effect of his deceptive tactics on the lives of those around us?
- What does the enemy desire for the Church? How does he go about stirring things up in a church body to bring about his desires? How can we be prepared for his deceptive tactics in the church?

IMITATION – SURRENDER – WALKING IN LOVE: When we want to be an imitator of God, surrender must take place; what does that mean for us? And what does Paul mean when he tells us to walk in love?

- What does it mean to have to surrender ourselves to be an imitator of God? What have you observed about God that you have begun to or could begin to imitate? How committed are you to look closely at the attributes of God and work diligently to imitate Him?
- Read verse 2; what kind of love has Christ shown us in giving up Himself for us? Where do you see that kind of love in the lives of those around you, and where are you showing that kind of love in your own life?
- How are you applying verse 2 to the way you are loving people and loving God? Is the way you are walking in love causing others to see who Jesus is and giving them a desire to know Him? Or are there things Paul mentions in verses 3-6 that are challenges for you, that you need to walk away from and to repent spiritually before you can truly walk in love?

LIGHT - DISCERNMENT: In verses 8 – 14 Paul contrasts light and darkness to describe what is good and right and pleasing to the Lord.

- What does Paul mean when he tells us to walk as children of the light? In what ways are you covering up His light when you make decisions based on your own selfish thinking?
- How do you discern what is pleasing to the Lord? Do you make most of your decisions based on feelings, emotions, prayerful consideration, researching factual information, seeking advice of trusted friends, or impulse? What things can distract you from making thoughtful decisions? Do you need a call from Paul to "Wake up!?"



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST:

- How do verses 18-21 encourage you to interact with fellow believers and to love God and love people?

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.