

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 5/12/2024

Life in the Light – Ephesians 5:1-20

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Highlights

- Connection Point is committed to being a Disciple Making Church
 - Great Commission: Matthew 28:19-20, living as a disciple is a good way of life, and we should want to share that.
- Everyday Disciples are following Jesus, being changed by Jesus, committed to the mission of Jesus (Mark 1:17)
- Every letter from Paul to the churches is a direct communication urging them to become Everyday Disciples.
- Chapters 1-3: the Gospel. Chapters 4-6: our response
- Recap:
 - EDs consider what God has done more than what we want Him to do.
 - EDs embrace they are saved by grace which results in good works. Good deeds don't lead to salvation.
 - EDs know if our life is built on Jesus, all our relationships can be.
 - EDs make efforts to grasp how wide, long, high, and deep God's love is, while embracing it's impossible to fully understand.
 - EDs are called (invited) into a relationship with God that will make you brand new.
- **Eph 5:1-2** Example = Imitate God by walking in love the same way Christ showed He loves us:
 - Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man didn't come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."
 - He gave as a fragrant offering. Animal sacrifices likely smell really bad, but when Jesus willingly gave Himself up, it smelled good to God.
 - We are to love others, even when it's difficult, by serving and giving, and it will be pleasing to God.
- **Eph 5:3** As a follower of Christ, you are set apart to be different. Your life should reflect God and His love in such a way that no one could speak badly of you or of God.
 - It's not "don't do these things so you're holy." It's "you're holy so walk in a way that is fitting."
- **Eph 5:4** Paul moves from overt self-pleasing activity to the way we speak to each other
 - This kind of talk reflects what is really going on in your heart. See Mt. 12:34
 - Instead of being crude, we should have an attitude of gratitude.
- **Eph 5:5** This verse makes it sound like no one can enter the Kingdom of God, OR that you can achieve sinlessness here on earth.
 - What he's saying is if you're not imitating Christ in love, if you're not following Him, if you're not walking with Him or toward Him, you're imitating, following, and walking toward something else.
 - That something else is a small "g" god in your life.
- **Eph 5:7** When we turn our backs on choosing to follow Jesus – of being an Everyday Disciple, we are disobedient and in direct opposition to His will, we are separated from Him and will face His wrath, so...
 - ...we should not be partakers with those who are doing that. The life of a believer should look different from that of a non-believer.

- Notice Paul doesn't say we should not associate with those people.
- **Who or what do you choose to imitate?**
- **Eph 5:8** It's not you're in darkness and you're in light. It is you WERE darkness and you ARE light
 - Jesus came to conquer darkness (sin, death, separation from God)
 - Faith in Jesus you ARE a child of light
 - Live as if you are (same word as "walk" in verse 2)
 - It's not about don't do this (everything Paul has already talked about), but live as light
 - This is the verse that gives our message series its name. If the Gospel is your Gospel and Jesus came to conquer darkness then you will live as a child of light.
- **Eph 5:9-10** the "result" of living as light are all things good, righteous and true.
 - Similar to the fruit of the Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23
 - With faith in Jesus, you are a child of light, you receive the Holy Spirit
 - As you walk with Him and toward Him these fruit begin to show up in your life (rather than all the bad things Paul has already talked about)
 - Also, as you walk toward Him, you learn more about what pleases God and you start doing those things rather than darkness type of things, and you move closer and you learn more things that please Him, etc.
- **Eph 5:13a** Once we're in the light, we are to help others who are darkness (separated from God) realize they are, and journey with them to become light and life as a child of light.
 - Everyday Missionary – Let me tell you how Jesus is changing my life.
- **Is your response to the Gospel to live as Children of Light and journey with others as they become light too?**
- **Eph 5:18** What are you filling yourself up with – the things that lead to darkness or the Holy Spirit?
- **Eph 5:19** When you are filled with the Holy Spirit (to overflowing) all the bad stuff that used to come out of your mouth (obscenity, foolish talk, empty words is replaced with good things like kindness, love, compassion and praise for God.
 - Remember, our talk reflects what is going on in our heart.
- **What or who are you filled with?**

Car Conversation:

- How is living in darkness different from living in light?
- Who are you thankful for that Jesus has put in your life?

Everyday Disciples...

- ...choose to imitate God
- ...are called to live as Children of Light ourselves and journey with others to become light too.
- ...are filled with the Holy Spirit. Out of the overflow, they do things beyond what they could do on their own.

The Bottom Line: When we live as Children of Light, we are filled with the Holy Spirit to overflowing and impact those around us.

What is your story about how Jesus has changed your life from dark to light or how being filled with the Spirit to overflowing has led you to love or serve others in a way that is beyond what you would or could do on your own?