

Ephesians 5: 1 - 21

God's New Community

- A people saved and made alive in Christ for good works God has prepared in advance Eph 2:10
- The people of God – the church – who exists to declare to all the 'manifold wisdom of God' Eph 3:10

Learning to impersonate God! 5: 1 – 2

- Reaching out to those who are far away
- Learning to love with the selfless and sacrificial love of Christ
- A fragrant offering – Pleasing and genuine

The journey from darkness to light 5: 3 – 14

- God's people will struggle with persistent sin – it needs to be faced and changed
 - No hint of sexual immorality, impurity or greed
 - No obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking
- No change = no new life. The gospels nature is that it will bring transformed living
- The three vices: sexual immorality, impurity and greed occur when we worship the created thing not the creator
- Let no-one deceive you with empty words – there will always be those who will tell us what we want to hear v6
- V7 No partnering! But we do come alongside – Eleos = Mercy – Compassion accompanied by action. 'Incarnational ministry'

4 Incentives for the journey:

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| 1. You are not alone | The certainty of judgement (5 – 7) |
| 2. There is a better way | The benefit of the light (8 – 14) |
| 3. Others have made a path | The benefit of wisdom (15 – 17) |
| 4. You are not alone | The Spirit led life (18 – 21) |

Digging Deeper Questions

Read Ephesians 5: 1 - 21

1. Why is love so powerful?
2. What does a life of love involve? Look up Luke 6: 35 – 36
3. Ephesians 5:8 reminds us what we were before we responded to God's love. Who are our enemies today and how do we follow Jesus' commands in Luke 6?
4. The journey from darkness to light is a challenge – how we work this out is crucial. Are there any clues in verses 3 - 7 as to how we might help one another with this challenge?
5. In verses 5 – 21 we were reminded of 4 incentives to help us live as God's new community. How do we help one another to keep focused on these and avoid being distracted by less important things?
6. Verse 19 refers to different forms of sung and spoken worship. What is the importance of the phrase 'Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord' Giving thanks to the Father?
7. Which is more important to us – how we live or how we express our worship together?