

Sermon Discussion – 31 March 2024

Read Ephesians 5:1-21

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Is anyone good at impersonations? If so, share some. Have some fun with it.

Is there anyone in your professional life that you try to imitate or pattern your professional life or choices after? Why that person? What do you choose to emulate? Why? How has that helped or hindered your career?

What about your personal or family life? Is there anyone in your family history that you try to imitate? Or maybe try not to imitate? Why?

Observation *Discovering the context*

Some of Paul's strongest warnings against sin are present within this passage. Coupled with it, Paul calls for believers to allow their love for Christ to be exhibited in the way they walk and carry themselves.

- Connect the dots between what Paul says in Ephesians 5:1 and what he says at the start of the book in Ephesians 1:5.
- What does it mean to "imitate God"? Does this seem impossible? Or does it encourage you?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. Reflect on the significance of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of the Christian faith. How does Jesus' resurrection redefine our identity as believers?
2. Discuss the concept of living in obedience to God's commands as outlined in Ephesians 5:1-2. What does it mean to walk away from the darkness of sin and embrace the light of Christ? How does exposing our sins to the light lead to confession, healing, and restoration in our lives?
3. In verse 3, sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness are strictly prohibited by Paul, stating that they have no place amongst the people of God. He also calls out the way in which we use our words in verse 4. Are these issues prevalent among Christians today? If so, what impact is that having on the Church? On its ability to witness to an unbelieving world?

4. Discuss the importance of living wisely and discerning God's will in our daily lives as highlighted in verses 15-17. How does seeking wisdom from God enable believers to make wise decisions and steward their time effectively?
5. Paul juxtaposes "drunk with wine" and "filled with the Spirit" in verse 18. What differences would characterise one who enjoys debauchery and one whose life is evidenced with being filled with the Spirit?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- It's important to take an honest look at our lives and examine the ways we are called to put on the new self and walk in love. As we do this, we are to look for areas that may still be dead and hiding in the darkness. Where does the light of Christ need to shine in your life right now? This is not an exercise to shame nor produce guilt, but to align our lives and hearts with Christ.
- Memorise Ephesians 5:1-2... *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*