

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 5:1-14]

WARM-UP (10 mins)

Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- In your time with the Lord, what is He teaching you?
- When you reflect on Sunday's sermon, what impacted you the most? Anything that convicted you personally or stirred your affection towards the Lord?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Why do you think that God desires for us to imitate him?
We are His representation on this earth. He created us to know Him and for us to display Him to peoples and nations. We are to be holy, for he is holy, we are to be merciful, because He is merciful – we share in many of His divine attributes.
2. How are we children of God? How did we get the title “children?”
Paul explains in earlier in Ephesians 1:5 that Christ “predestined us to be adopted through Jesus Christ for Himself, according to His favor and will.” We are adopted children by God through Christ and as children of God, we benefit from his rule and blessing. All of this so that he might gain glory. [What other passages support our adoption?]
3. Verse 2 says walk in love as Christ loved us? How did Christ love us? Where would you go in Scripture to show someone the depth of Christ's love for us?
[Example: Philippians 2:1-11]
4. Verse 5 speaks of idolatry. What exactly is idolatry?
Idolatry is when we find pleasure and joy in “substitute gods.” Those gods include; self, money, material possessions, substances, entertainment, shopping, etc.
5. How do we not become deceived with empty words (verse 6)?
We must train our minds to discern truth from error, “rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15). 1 Timothy 4:6-8 says, “If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; ⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.”

6. Verse 7 says, “do not become partners with them.” Does this mean we are to avoid unbelievers?

We are to befriend those who are outside of the faith, but we have no business participating or becoming “partners” in their sinful behavior. We are not to pollute ourselves with the sins of this world.

7. How do we as Christians “expose darkness” as described in verse 11?

As Christians we are to walk in the light. Having already exposed the light of God’s word and Spirit in our own lives, we can now be a light for others, displaying Christ in word and in deed and allowing others witness the fruit of the Spirit. And with wisdom, discernment, and gentleness we might lead others towards the light of truth.

PRAY

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.

Commentary Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- Merida, Tony. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*. B&H Publishing Group; Nashville, Tennessee, 2014.