

Ephesians

Week 13 – Walk as Light

Transition: Last week, we continued looking into what Paul taught about how the put off/put on principle affects a Christian's walk of faith. He began by encouraging the Ephesians to imitate God. He then elaborated on this idea by drawing attention to one specific way this could be done...by walking in love, as Christ did (which is the put on). He then quickly followed this with some ways that walking in love is not done (the put offs).

Context: This week we are continuing our look into what Paul has to say about following Jesus, which he likens to a walk. Whereas last week he told them to walk in love, this week he tells them to walk as children of light.

Opening Questions:

- When a biblical writer mentions that God is light (e.g., 1 John 1:5), what does that mean to you?
- Think of a time when God exposed a Scripture passage to you that you had read more than once but had not yet fully understood or perhaps even noticed. What was it? In what ways did God's revealing it impact you?

Scripture/Storying: 5:7-14

Discipleship Questions:

- Read Ephesians 5:1-6. How does this week's passage relate to what Paul said in the first six verses of the chapter?
- In what ways is Paul's use of light and dark helpful for you in knowing how to live as a Christian?
- What fruit is produced by walking in the light (v10)? Why do you think he names these fruits specifically? When has any (or all) of them helped you personally to "discern what is pleasing to the Lord?" Share the story.
- When Paul speaks of exposing the works of darkness (v11), what does this look like to you? Do you struggle with doing this? Why or why not? If you have one, share a real-life example of when this has happened in your life and what you learned from it.
- Paul concludes this section by quoting a common Christian saying (from his day), "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (v14b). How does this fit into what he taught them in this section? In what way(s) does it apply to you?
- What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you about your walk with Jesus and how He wants you to respond?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Street Hope TN, a ministry that Providence supports.

- Pray for Law Enforcement & Lawmakers, that they will have courage to create righteous legislation & firmness toward perpetrators.
- Pray that they have investigative insight, compassion towards the victims and emotional strength while reviewing evidence.