

Ephesians

Week 12 – Walk in Love

Transition: Last week, to get back on track with our study of Ephesians, we began by reviewing what we learned in the first four chapters, and then we read the remaining two chapters to get an overview of what we'll be covering in the weeks ahead. The three key words from the last two chapters are walk, submit, and stand.

Context: This week we are picking up our verse-by-verse study. (Paul had just shared the put off/put on principle to encourage Christians to live so that their practice matches their position. He had also given a few examples to aid their understanding of how to apply it properly.) Paul continues the put off/put on idea by encouraging the Ephesians to imitate God and then he begins to elaborate on what that does or does not look like in the life of a saint.

Opening Questions:

- What changes have you made in the way you live because you have been compelled by your love for the Lord?
- What has been the hardest thing for you to give up since you began following Jesus (and what made it hard for you)? Share the story of what you went through (or are going through) to give it up for Him. What's your "secret" for successfully giving something up for the Lord?

Scripture/Storying: 5:1-7

Discipleship Questions:

- What's your immediate reaction to the command to "imitate God" (v1)? (What are you thinking and/or feeling?)
- What is the first godly characteristic that Paul mentions after telling them to imitate God (v2)? Why this one?
- When has a fellow Christian's walking in love had a deep impact on you? Share the story. In what ways have you walked in love toward others this past week? In what ways is God wanting you to grow in loving others?
- Paul lists some things that Christians should not do (v3-7). What does he mention specifically? Why do you think he points out these practices particularly? Which one stands out the most to you right now, and why? How do you keep your own following of Jesus from becoming merely a list of what to do and what not to do?
- When have you been deceived by empty words (v6)? Share the story. How do you keep yourself from being deceived spiritually?
- Paul says that doing the things that "must not even be named among you" makes us partners/partakers with "the sons of disobedience" upon whom "the wrath of God" will be coming (v7). What does he mean and what impact does this have on you personally?
- What does it mean to have "no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?" How does this affect the way you live?
- What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you about your walk with Jesus and what you need to do?

Prayer time: This week we are praying for Bridges Refugee, a ministry that Providence supports.

- Pray for the upcoming push for more churches and groups to partner with us in a new in-kind initiative that is about to launch!
- Please pray that we continue to get furniture donations so that we can provide for the families that are coming into Knoxville this month.