

Be Imitators of God

Ephesians 5:1-20

Introductory question

How do you answer the question: Why would a good, loving God send anyone to hell?

This question keeps many from faith in Christ. But as we think about goodness the question needs to be flipped, the real question is: how could a good, loving God let anyone into heaven? How does Ephesians 5:1-2 answer this question?

How are Christians described?

What are we reminded that Christ has done so we can live with God?

How do we live out this identity?

The Way of Love

Verses 3-4. How do these verses tell us to live as God's children, imitating him?

Very few of us can read verses 3-4 and not see some of our own sins listed there. How are you challenged? What do you need to ask God to forgive? How do you need to change to live as a dearly loved child of God?

What does someone with a verse 5 lifestyle show about themselves?

Why is such a person described as an idolater?

What comes to those who are disobedient?

It is easy to be deceived or deceive ourselves that sin doesn't really matter so much. Sin is serious, it really matters. God's response makes this clear, both the sacrifice of Jesus and the wrath that comes upon sinners.

Living as the Light

Looking at verses 8-14.

What change in our status has come about because of our union with Christ?

What do we do as children of light?

What responsibilities do we have in regard to darkness? v11

How does someone living in a godly way expose sin that wouldn't otherwise have been noticed as sinful?

What happens to those things exposed to the light? v13-14

How are you being challenged by these verses to expose sin by living in a godly way?

How are you being encouraged to seek to transform those around you?

The life of Wisdom and Spirit

Throughout the second half of Ephesians, Paul has told us to live:

- worthy of the gospel (4:1)
- not like the disobedient (4:17)
- with love (5:1-2)
- in light (5:8)

What is the next quality he adds? v15

What are the marks of the wise person?

What are the marks of a Spirit filled life?

Are you being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Some people may say a relationship with God is personal. That is true, but your relationship with God will also produce a fruit in your life that will be obvious to all around you. Your life will be changed for all to see, as you follow God's example, walking in the way of love, living as children of light, wise and Spirit-filled.