Being Men of God in a Dark World

High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Ephesians 5: Part 1 – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Most of us would have to admit we're living in dark times. What used to be right is often considered wrong, and standing for the right things can often result in criticism and even public backlash. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a book for a "time such as this." The early church in the ancient city of Ephesus faced similar challenges as we do today in being disciples of Jesus. The pagan culture did not recognize God and certainly did not see Jesus as God's Son. In his letter, Paul addresses some of the most important Christian concepts contained in the Bible including the Holy Spirit, salvation, spiritual warfare, marriage, and even parenting. May the Lord use this book of the Bible to impact us all to be more like Jesus!

Overview of Chapter 5a

Verses 1-17 The walk of the Believer
Verses 18-20 Living the life of a spirit-filled Believer

Verses 1 through 7

1. Verse 1 discusses being an imitator of God. What does this mean to you? What should motivate us to live in this manner?

2. Read verses 3 and 4. Why do you think purity is so important, especially today? How does this command differ from what we see in society and why is the lack of purity so pervasive in today's culture?

3. Paul talks about not being partners with those who live in sin (verse 7). What does it look like for us to honor this passage? Remember the saying – *birds of a feather flock together*.

Verses 8 through 20

4. Read verses 8 through 14 and consider how you spend time. What percentage of your time is spent seeking *fruitless deeds*? As we think about the process of sanctification (i.e., being made holy), how does seeking the light impact our spiritual development?

5. Verses 15 through 17 discuss about living wisely. If you had to relive portions of your life over again (or were to give advice to a young men), what would you do differently in terms of making wise choices?

6. Paul gives us some general advice for Christian living in verses 18 through 20. What are some thoughts you glean from these passages?

Our next study

Read Ephesians Chapter 5:21-33. Read Paul's advice to husbands and wives. What areas of your marriage need the greatest improvement? Would your spouse describe you as living in a sacrificial manner?