



Worship Guide for May 29, 2022

Sermon Notes

Guarding Our Missional Identity

Ephesians 5:7-17 (pew Bible pg. 978)

So far in Ephesians 5, we have heard the exhortation by Paul to “be imitators of God.” The very next phrase highlights the fact that we can only do that based on the new identity we have in Christ Jesus, “as beloved children.” Last week we walked through the following verses in which Paul lists some explicit characteristics that “must not even be named among you,” and how they all find their root in idolatry and covetousness. This morning we will move into the next section and see just how imperative it is that we understand our true identity as “children of light.” According to Paul, it is because of our new identity in Christ that we must not only abstain from participating in these actions, but as we will see in the following verses, we must be careful to guard against partnering or taking part in them. We must instead press into the new identity that is ours and live that identity out in a way that trusts in and reflects well the One whose name we bear. We will explore this passage in three sections, drawing from each one (a) a warning, (b) a reminder of our identity, and (c) a ground, or support, that we have through the work of the Spirit in being obedient to God and his Word.

I. Children of light, united with Christ (vs. 7-10)

II. Agents of light, raised to new life (vs. 11-14)

III. Guided by light, being aligned with God’s will (vs. 15-17)

Weekly Discipleship Guide

Know

**What does God intend for me to know?
In your journal, use the following prompts to write some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

- I never knew...
- I was challenged...
- I was encouraged to...
- I was reminded...
- I was convicted...
- A question I still have...
- A truth I could share...
- I need to dig deeper into...

Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?
In your journal, use the following questions to write some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

- Is there a command to obey?
- How am I compelled to exalt God?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a principle to follow?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Am I convicted to confess any sin?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
- How can I pray for someone else?
- What am I compelled to love or desire?

Do (Yield)

How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.

As children of light, how do we seek a balance between exposing darkness and retaining a missional posture that desires to see those outside of Christ reconciled to God through him?

In what ways do you feel the real danger in falling into patterns of "partnering" with darkness? How easy is it for us to mix up "what is pleasing to the Lord" with "what I desire to be the case?"

What are some of the greatest hindrances to "making the best use of the time" that you see in your own life? What might it look like to embrace Paul's attitude of "all things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable?"

**Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.*

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