

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for June 5, 2022

Sermon Notes

An Odd & Compelling Community: Sober, Celebrating, and Submissive

Ephesians 5:15-21 (pew Bible pg. 978)

As we continue our journey through Ephesians, we are following the direction established in Ephesians 4:1: *“I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called”*. That calling is founded on the reality that God chose and called us in Christ before the foundation of the world *“that we should be holy and blameless before him”* (Eph 1:4). Our calling is to walk worthy of the calling we have received – to walk in the newness of who we are in Christ. This “walk”, or lifestyle, is radically different from the world around us, so different that it seems odd to those outside of Christ. Humility, gentleness, patience, bearing with others different from us, gospel unity and purity, characteristics such as these are not sought or celebrated by the culture in which we live. Yet, the Christ-culture we see in Scripture, as odd as it may seem, is attractive and compelling to the broken and lost around us who are hungry for the grace, truth, and love that can only be found in Christ.

Our broken and lost world thinks it can fix itself. It thinks the solutions to our fundamental problems can be found in scientific development, or personal self-discovery, or sexual expression, or racial reconciliation, or economic improvement, or social renovation, or political platforms, or military power, or...the list goes on and on. Mankind is trying to fix what is broken and ruined yet is unwilling to turn to and/or listen to the Creator who originally made us, who is the only one who can fix us. The world walks in rebellion and ignorance of God’s ways and wisdom, and then wonders why it can’t be fixed and can’t understand why things are only getting worse.

Jason reminded us last week: “children of light cannot advance the kingdom of light by partnering with darkness.” Instead, light penetrates darkness and pushes it back. We are to be active in our resistance of the darkness and at the same time engage the lost world by reflecting the light of Christ – the light of the gospel. Today we continue to examine the characteristics of those who are “light in the Lord”, who are commanded to “walk as children of light” (5:8). This walk – this lifestyle is radically different from the world around us, so different that it seems odd to those outside of Christ. It is odd and compelling at the same time.

We are called to live with an odd, countercultural love. (5:1-2)

We are called to live with an odd, countercultural purity. (5:3-6)

We are called to live with an odd, countercultural intentionality. (5:7-17)

We are called to live with an odd, countercultural sobriety. (5:18)

We are called to live within an odd, countercultural community. (5:19-21)

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 reminded...	A question I still have...
I was challenged...	I was convicted...	A truth I could share...
I was encouraged to...		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?	Am I convicted to confess any sin?
How am I compelled to exalt God?	Is there a sin to avoid?
Is there a promise to claim?	How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
Is there a principle to follow?	How can I pray for someone else?
Is there an example to follow?	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.**

What is the most difficult part of living out an odd countercultural love? How do the Scriptures address that struggle?

What should the balance between living counter-culturally AND living on mission look like in our culture?

Why is walking in the Spirit absolutely necessary to our seeking to live out this vision of Ephesians 5? How are you currently seeking to walk in the Spirit?

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

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