**Ephesians 5:8 – 5:33**

April 19-20, 2017

Read 5:8-5:20

Vs 8-14 speaks to walking in the light as compared to walking in the darkness. It states that we should be in the *light of the Lord*, and that Christ will *shine on us.* Thoroughly unpack what this analogy means. What does it mean that God is light, what does the darkness mean, what does it mean that everything exposed by the light is visible…?

Vs 8: How do you identify with this verse? Do you currently see yourself as in the light? Can you see any contrast between when you once walked in darkness as compared to walking in the light?

Vs 9: What do you believe it means that “*fruit of the light consists (is found) in all goodness, righteousness, and truth*”?

Vs 14: How do you identify with the phrase “*rise from the dead and Christ will shine on you*”? What do you think it means to have Christ shine on you?

Verses 15-17 Speak to living your life to the fullest, understanding what the Lord’s will is and acting on it. Do you believe you are in a place where you are *making the most of every opportunity*? Do you know what the Lord’s will is in your life?

Verses 18-20 Command us to be engaged with the Spirit. Speaking to one another and our Father through the Spirit. What does this mean to you? Do you understand what this means or are you unsure? In what ways can we seek to be engaged with the Spirit daily?

Read 5:21 – 5:33

Vs 21: What does it mean to *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ*? How can you practically do this and are you able to do so? How can we as brothers and sisters in Christ submit to one another better?

*This verse should be read as the main theme for the passages that follow: it should be read with respect to wives and husbands, and likely also the relationships of children to parents (6:1) and slaves to masters (6:5).*

*The passage (v21-33) speak to two different relationships: there is the relationship of the church and Christ, and there is the relationship of the husband and wife. The husband and wife relationship to be analogous to Christ and the Church. Christ and the church is primary, and the husband and wife is the copy or image.*

Read Genesis 2:20-24: *This passage should be read because it is quoted by Paul in Vs 5:31. Paul emphasizes that this verse (Gen 2:24) is speaking of Christ and the Church and this is the emphasis of this passage: “This is a profound mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church”. Paul wants us to truly understand this relationship. From there, we can understand the relationship between husband and wife. Note, however that it is not a perfect analogy, for example a husband does not make his wife holy, as Christ does the church. But the analogy does function appropriately for other examples like “husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.”*

Unpack these verses and dig into what the relationship is like between Christ and the Church. What does this mean for you? What is your identity within the church, what is your identity with Christ?

Call out specifically, from this passage what Christ has done for the Church and discuss how He has loved the Church.

Vs 31-32: What do you believe these verses mean? Why do you believe that Paul quotes the Genesis passage at this time? What do you think he means that “*this is a profound mystery*”?

We will now dig into the relationship between husbands and wives. What are your initial reactions to these verses: do you like them, dislike them? What do you believe they mean; what does Paul *command* of husbands and wives?

Vs 22-24 What does Paul say about how wives should live? *Note that the verb “submit” in this verse is not used in the original Greek text, but it was implied, hence it’s use in the translations. Therefore, the verse can be read as “wives to your own husbands as unto the Lord.”* What does this verse meant to you, how do you understand what Paul is speaking to here?

*The submission is to be voluntary, it is an earnest appeal. The Greek word uses the middle voice, which is best translated “submitting yourselves.” The wife’s submission, then, is not something forced on her by a demanding husband – Vaughan.*

Vs 28-29 How are husbands to love their wives? Why does he say they should “love their wives as their own bodies?” What do you believe this means? How might Genesis 2:24 provide some clarity to this?

*The ancient world was a man’s world and in no place was this more apparent than in the home. Among the Jews the wife was often little more than chattel. The Greeks confined the women to the household to their own quarters and did not even permit them to eat their meals with the men. -Vaughan*

Verse 33 is a summary statement by Paul about what He speaks as husband and wives roles in marriage. Reference this back to verses 22 and verse 25. What do you believe these verses speak about these roles?

Go over this passage again (Verses 21-33). What does Paul say about Christ and the Church? What do we learn about how husbands and wives should love one another?

Conclusion

As you go from here, how will you seek to walk in the light? What has God called you to “put off” and what has He specifically called you to “put on.”

How has your identity with Christ been effected as you read these passages? What specifically resonated with you with what you learned about Christ and the Church?

What did you learn about how husbands and wives are supposed to love one another? Even though you are *likely* not married what can you do differently or what will you *take away* as you go from here based on what you learned from the passage?