



EPHESIANS 5:1-21

CHRIST CENTRED PURITY

What are some funny/unusual/unique habits, characteristics or routines that you have taken from your parents?

As we continue in our journey through Ephesians, Paul continues to give guidance and wisdom on godly living in light of our new identity in Christ. In Chapter 4, he spoke about how we are a new person in Christ and have a new life to live. In this passage, Paul uses another identity that helps us to understand how to live in light of God's mercy to us.



Read Ephesians 5:1-7

1. What relationship/identity does Paul base these next commands on? How is that relationship described? (See also 5:8)

This is not the first time that Paul has mentioned the idea that we are God's children. In Ephesians 1:5, Paul spoke about our adoption as sons through Jesus Christ. As a contrast in Ephesians 2:3, our previous identity before salvation was described as 'children of wrath' (ESV). Like any loving parent, God is concerned about the conduct of his children. Since we are no longer children of the dark, we ought to take on the attitudes and behaviours to reflect our newfound identity as dearly loved children of God. We also have an example to imitate: Jesus Christ, THE Son of God.

2. How strict is Paul on the matter of sexual immorality, impurity and greed? Why do you think that is?

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3. Paul talks about the potential for deception on this topic in v6. What do you think it could be? Do you think we still have the potential for deception today?

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4. How are we to respond to sexual content on television shows, movies and on the internet? Discuss the following:

a. Sex scenes and nudity in movies and shows like Game of Thrones

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b. Discussion about sex on talk shows

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c. Crude jokes and 'toilet humour'

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Paul is not only concerned for what messages we listen to but also what we speak. Here's a helpful quote: *'Our words often both reflect and affect our hearts, and that seems to be the case particularly when it comes to sex. If we're imagining it, joking about it, or crudely discussing it, we're headed in the wrong direction. Our heart is creeping closer to sin, not fleeing in the opposite direction. Crude sexual talk, humor, innuendo, and flirtation lower our defenses and heighten our temptation. Paul's charge is clear: Don't do it. And don't even talk about doing it.'*

desiringgod.org/articles/what-does-tv-say-about-sex

CHRIST CENTRED KIDS MINISTRY

In all the theological depth of Ephesians, one of the most profound statements is that we are adopted children of God. God loves his children, equips his children to grow, gives them his Spirit, and teaches them to imitate both the Father and Son.

One outworking of that new identity is that Christians should likewise value and teach our children to grow and imitate Christ. Many of us are involved in teaching kids at Christ Central Kids on a Sunday morning or at Christ Central Youth. If that's you, do you have the same high view of what you're involved in? Do you prepare as though you've got the responsibility to love, teach and grow the kids you have for that hour? And if you're not involved, should you consider it? Intergenerational relationships help to enrich the life of our church as the body of Christ.

In any case, do pray for our kids and for the leaders who teach them week by week.



Read Ephesians 5:8-21

Paul again turns to identity as the basis for our behaviour.

5. Explain in your own words what Paul means by the metaphor of darkness and light and how it shapes our attitudes and behaviours.

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6. What does it mean to expose the works of darkness?

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7. What would it look like to 'make the most of every opportunity' (v16)?

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Paul again uses our identity as children but with the light/darkness metaphor, he contrasts just how different our lives should be. In fact, our lives should be of such stark difference that it lights up the darkness of the Gentile world around us.

This passage isn't simply a list of don'ts but a life of do's. Our deeds of darkness are now to be replaced with deeds of light. Paul then speaks about how the Spirit fills us and leads us to positive, godly living that replaces our old life of sin. The unexpected thing is that Paul focuses on music as one of the keys.

8. What do you think Spirit filled singing is like? Do you think we do a good job of it at Christ Central?

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9. Take a moment to reflect on your own life. What deeds of darkness do you need to repent of in order to reflect our identity as children of light? Who could help you in this?

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Prayer

Spend some time praying together in the light of this passage. Here's a reminder of the 'ACTS' approach to prayer. It stands for:

A

adoration

We bring our praise to God for who He is and what He's graciously done for us.

C

confession

We don't confess sin as if it's our ritual towards absolution, but in the light of the cross where God's judgement and mercy meet, it's right to acknowledge our on-going sin that is graciously dealt with by Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

T

thanksgiving

We offer thanks for what God's done in our own life and in the lives of others in our church family.

S

supplication

This is a fancy word for the prayer of asking for specific things. God is our Father and He wants us to bring our concerns to Him. And as we've seen in Ephesians 1, it's right to ask that our brothers and sisters in Christ would know Him better.