

Ephesians

A CHURCH ALIVE IN CHRIST

JULY 30, 2023

SERIES OVERVIEW:

Ephesians is a letter written by the apostle Paul to Christians living in the city of Ephesus in order to strengthen their faith, promote their unity, and exhort them to holiness. He reminds them of God's great grace and the spiritual blessings every believer possesses. He prays for them to grow in their knowledge of God and what He has done for them in Christ. He emphasizes grace in the salvation of believers and prays that they would be able to comprehend the love of Christ and that they would be filled with the fullness of God.

MESSAGE TAKEAWAYS:

Week 11 we looked at ***Ephesians 5:1-20*** where we unpack how what we read is all for the purpose of teaching us how to be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and to walk in love. As we spend time in God's Word, to know the One to whom we are called to imitate, we examine whether we are walking in this way by asking "Does a watching world look at me and see Jesus?"

CONVERSATION QUESTIONS:

- Paul begins here with a call to be imitators of God, as beloved children, who walk in love. Why is it important to remember the truth of who God is and what He has done and the posture by which He displayed love towards us?
- Pastor Micah helped us see clearly that this call is in how we align ourselves and posture first individually and then in a local church community. How has this shaped your personal and communal life? How may you need to encourage or hold one another accountable? *Pause as needed to pray as the Holy Spirit leads.*

- Paul refers to excessive indulgence. Pastor Micah reminded us that “any good gift from God can become a sinful pleasure when we use it in a way it was not created to be used.” Dialogue about areas, either personally or communally, where we may be drifting towards using in not a way it was meant to be used.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Pastor Micah closed with a call to ask ourselves what the world sees when they look at us. Does a watching world look at me and see Jesus?

First Steps (IDENTIFY): Take inventory of your life - what is your posture as an individual, as a member of the local church, and in the world?

Helpful questions:

Is this a wise thing for me to do?

Is this posture imitating the fullness of God?

Next Steps (PROFESS/CONFESS/REPENT): As you reflect on your everyday rhythms and spaces, if moments or relationships come to mind where you were not imitating God, move into confession and repentance.

As you look ahead, rest in the grace of Jesus and let each new opportunity be a chance to imitate Him in all you think, say, and do.

As you are led, pray with a friend to encourage one another to walk in the narrow way of Jesus.

As needed, ask for your community to pray with you or seek out a conversation with a Pastor: <https://ncchapel.churchcenter.com/people/forms/551596>