

OUR IDENTITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Identity– Ephesians 1:1-10 – September 4, 2022

Helpful Resources

Check out one of these helpful resources:

- 1) *Gospel Identity* – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
- 2) *Ephesians for You* – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
- 3) *The Book of Ephesians* – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW:

- When was a time when you wondered what the purpose of life was? And/or what was God's ultimate purpose?
- God loves us unconditionally. How do you define this kind of love?
- What are some examples of how God has demonstrated His unconditional love for you? How does that shape your identity?
- How do you define grace?
- What is your experience with adoption (or someone you know)? What was meaningful about this experience?
- If you were to list out the 10 Commandments of your family, what would some of them be?



GROW:

- Read v. 1-3. What are some examples of God's spiritual blessings? How do His blessings motivate us during challenging seasons of life?
- Read v. 4-6. How does knowing God chooses us before the foundation of the world help you deal with past mistakes? How does this truth bring encouragement for your future?
- What does it mean to be in Christ?
- According to verse 5, Christians are adopted by God through Jesus. How does this adoption give you security and identity to live with confidence and hope?
- How do we become, as Paul says in verse 4, holy and blameless? What's our part in becoming holy and blameless? What's God's part?
- Read v 7-10. How do Christians access and receive God's grace and forgiveness?
- What is God's purpose according to verses 9-10? New Testament commentator F.F. Bruce calls God's ultimate plan, "*to gather up the fragmented and alienated universe*". What do you think about this statement about God's ultimate plan?



SHOW:

- Who is someone that you know that might benefit from the gospel truth discussed in this passage of Scripture? How could you show and share that truth with them?
- What does it look like to walk this week in the truth you learned from this passage?
- Pray for one another, like Paul did, that "the eyes of your heart will be enlightened" (Ephesians 1:18).
- What other needs exist in your group? Spend some time praying for them.

OUR IDENTITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Identity– Ephesians 1:11-23 – September 11, 2022

Helpful Resources

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- 1) *Gospel Identity* – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
- 2) *Ephesians for You* – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
- 3) *The Book of Ephesians* – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- What was something you hoped for a long time that eventually came true?
- What are you hoping for right now? Something big? Small? Important? Silly?
- Have you ever been unable to breathe or catch your breath? How did your view of breathing change after that experience?
- What do you thank God for on a daily basis? Why is that something you are thankful for?
- How is Jesus central in history? In what ways does history look different if Jesus is not central?



GROW:

- Read verse 11. Why is it important for Christians to reflect on the truth that God works all things out according to His will?
- Explain the importance of “when you believed” in verse 13, in light of the context of verses 3-14.
- Read verses 15-16. How does our faith in Jesus bring encouragement to others? How have other's faith brought encouragement to you?
- In verses 17-19, why do you think Paul prays first for the spirit of wisdom, revelation, and knowledge in Jesus?
- According to this passage, how do we know God better? How does the Holy Spirit make knowing Him more possible?
- How does the 'dark mirror' image in 1 Corinthians 13 fit with the 'enlightened eyes' in Ephesians 1:18?
- What do verses 20-21 claim about who Jesus is? Why is that important?
- Are there times when you don't feel loved by God? Why or why not? How does this passage speak to God's love for us?



SHOW:

- How does this passage give us hope?
- How does Jesus practically fill the void we have in our lives? How does His peace and contentment minister or help us?
- How can Christians keep under the lordship of Jesus in everyday life? What does that look like?
- Who is someone you know who might be losing hope? What could you do or say that might encourage them to open their eyes to God's love and power?
- Imagine that Paul's prayer was answered in your life. What might that look like in your life?

OUR IDENTITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Identity– Ephesians 1:11-23 – September 18, 2022

Helpful Resources

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- 1) *Gospel Identity* – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
- 2) *Ephesians for You* – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
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KNOW:

- What is the best gift you've ever received? Why was it the best?
- What is one item that you have on display in your home or office, about which you are happy to tell people?
- Describe a time in your life when you felt like you just couldn't measure up?
- What are some common stereotypes or groups you remember from school? (Jocks, preps, etc.). What group or groups were you a part of?
- When have you seen someone shown mercy when they deserved punishment? What happened as a result?



GROW:

- How do verses 1-3 describe being 'dead in trespasses and sins?'
- Explain the paradox of how sinners are both dead in sins, yet alive in other ways. What are the dangers of 'stretching the metaphor' of being dead?
- What are verses 1-3 saying about desperate predicament that sinners are in? What is it about being 'dead in sin' that is both self-deceiving and deceiving to others?
- What remedy do verses 4-6 give us for being dead in sin?
- What do these verses imply about what God sees in us that makes us 'worth' saving?
- Based on these verses, how would you define "grace?"
- Read verse 7. What should our response be to this verse?
- In what way should the last phrase of verse 9 be evident in our lives?
- How does Paul describe the contrast between who they are now in Christ with who they once were?



SHOW:

- What is a change you might make in your life after looking at this passage?
- Who in your life can you encourage with this passage? Why do they come to your mind?
- Pray that God will grow your trust in him. If you have been trying to be good enough for God, ask Him to help you rest in His goodness rather than your own. Ask Him for rest in the identity He gave you and not the identity you have adopted or created for yourself.

OUR IDENTITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Identity– Ephesians 2:1-10 – September 18, 2022

Helpful Resources

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- 1) *Gospel Identity* – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
- 2) *Ephesians for You* – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
- 3) *The Book of Ephesians* – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

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- What is one item that you have on display in your home or office, about which you are happy to tell people?
- Describe a time in your life when you felt like you just couldn't measure up?
- What are some common stereotypes or groups you remember from school? (Jocks, preps, etc.). What group or groups were you a part of?
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GROW:

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SHOW:

- What is a change you might make in your life after looking at this passage?
- Who in your life can you encourage with this passage? Why do they come to your mind?
- Pray that God will grow your trust in him. If you have been trying to be good enough for God, ask Him to help you rest in His goodness rather than your own. Ask Him for rest in the identity He gave you and not the identity you have adopted or created for yourself.

OUR UNITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Unity – Ephesians 2:11-3:13 – September 25, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- How do you often identify yourself (ex: mother/father, husband/wife, career)? How can these identifying traits/markers be a hinderance in your life?
- Can you think of a time in your life when you felt like an outsider? How would you describe that experience?
- How do you feel about the changing seasons? Do you look forward to the cooler temperatures of Fall & Winter or want to hang on to Summer? How do the changing seasons affect your moods and rhythms?
- We've just concluded our first series in Ephesians where we talked about our identity in Christ. Take a minute and review what we learned about who we are in Christ. What are some of the blessings we have been given in Him?



GROW:

- Compare verses 19-21 with verse 12. What has happened in these seven verses? What terminology does Paul use?
- Look at verses 1-2 and 7-8. What was Paul's attitude toward his ministry? How was Paul's ministry the result of grace?
- This week we shift our focus to our unity in Christ. In Ephesians 2:11-12, Paul talks specifically about the circumcision (Jews) and the uncircumcision (Gentiles). According to verses 13-22, why is there no longer division between Jews and Greeks? Why is this a significant development in the Gospel narrative or the overall story of Scripture?
- Why does Paul refer to the gospel as the mystery of Christ? What was not known before Christ that has now been revealed through Him? (Hint: Look at verse 6)



SHOW:

- What individual Christians or groups of Christians are you separated or have distanced yourself from (because of theological, cultural, denominational, racial, or economic differences)? How does your view(s) need to change after studying this passage?
- This passage reminds us that God's grace flows into our lives not only for our own benefit but also for the benefit of others. Paul clearly saw how he fit into the big picture of God's plan. How do you see yourself fitting in?
- How does the church reflect the unity of Christ to the world around us? What are we doing well? Where do we need to grow and change?
- When Scripture talks about unity with other believers, who are we called to be unified in? What are the essentials for unity? What are things we can disagree about but still have unity with one another?

OUR UNITY

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Unity – Ephesians 3:14-3:21 – October 2, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- Who tucked you in at night and heard your prayers? How did that experience shape how you pray today?
- Describe a time when God answered your prayer? How did that experience shape the next time you faced a challenge in life?
- How freely and confidently do you approach God? Why?
- Think of a friend who comes from a different background than you. What united you together? What still unites you as friends?
- When do you pray the most? Why do you tend to pray more during these particular times?



GROW:

- What does Paul want us to understand is essential to becoming mature in the faith?
- What do you observe about the structure of Paul's prayer? What repeated themes stand out in these requests?
- Read verses 17-19. What is Paul's praying the church be rooted and ground in?
- Read verses 20-21. Why should we pray with great expectations? What keeps you from praying with great expectations?
- According to verse 21, why should we pray for God to do incredible things?
- How does our understanding of God impact how we approach Him in prayer?
- What does this passage teach us about the resources of God?
- Do you hesitate to pray for spiritual strength? Why?
- What is an area of your life where you need spiritual strengthening? How might you pray for this now after studying these verses?



SHOW:

- Imagine that Paul's prayer was answered in your life. What might that look like?
- Describe a time when you were overwhelmed by an experience of the love of Christ. What keeps you from living out of a daily experience of the love of Christ?
- What keeps you from feeling desperation in your prayer life?
- How has this prayer challenged the way you think about praying for others? How does it invite you to pray differently?
- How is this prayer verses 14-21 evidence of the freedom and confidence with which we can approach God?
- Pray for each other. Let the truth of this passage inform your prayers and how you approach the Lord.



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Unity Ephesians 4: 1-16 – October 9, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>

Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>

The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- What is one quality you would like to develop in your character?
- How do sport teams stay unified? Work teams?
- What makes it difficult to stay unified as a family? What are the challenges families face to stay together?
- Do you prefer to do solo work or to work on a team? Why? What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?
- Describe a time you did something on your own when you should have gotten help?



GROW:

- Read verse 1. What did Paul urge the Ephesians to do?
- According to verse 2, what three virtues foster unity among Christians?
- How should Christians conduct themselves toward each other? Why?
- Read verses 4-6. What are the foundational elements of Christian unity?
- How is Christian unity related to the character and nature of God?
- Why does keeping unity in the church require so much effort? What enables Christians to live at peace with each other?
- Read verses 9-11. What is Paul's commentary on the Old Testament passage he quotes? Why?
- What is the purpose of spiritual gifts in the church. Read verses 12-13. What is the result of gifted believers equipping the church?



SHOW:

- How does the Spirit help you maintain the 'bond of peace' with others in your church?
- How have you benefited from the Christian leadership in your church?
- What is your responsibility to help others in the body of Christ?
- How do you need to show humility, gentleness, and patience in dealing with others?
- What service can you offer another church member to help build up the body of Christ?



OUR
AUTHENTICITY
EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Unity –
Ephesians 4:17-25 – October 16, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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 **KNOW:**

- Do you prefer wearing old, comfortable clothing or dressy outfits? Why?
- What is an outfit or style you had years ago that you now see as funny or embarrassing?
- If you spoke to someone from another country, you'd notice they view the world differently than Americans. How have you begun to see your viewpoints change since becoming a Christian?
- Can you think of an example of something you heard recently you thought was futile or darkened thinking?
- How do you best effect change in another person's thinking?
- How would you define Grace-driven effort (putting off old self, putting on new self)?



GROW:

- Pastor Tim Mackie defines the "new nature" as "“The version of you that is created to perfectly reflect the image of God.” How would you define the new nature?
- Paul describes the life of those who choose to reject the message of Christ in vs. 17-19. Do you believe this view is accurate? How have you see this played out in the lives of non-Christians in your life?
- In verse 18, Paul traces futile thinking and darkened understanding to its source—a “hardened heart.” What does this tell you about debating issues with non-believers? What has been the result when you’ve tried to debate issues with a non-Christian?
- Paul describes how the ungodly live. What are the chief characteristics of the ungodly? (vs. 17-19)
- How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? (4:20-21)
- What 3 stages of transformation does Paul list in vs. 22 - 24?
- Who is doing the renewing of your thoughts and attitudes? (vs. 23)
- How does becoming in the ‘likeness of God’ reflect the phrase ‘in the image of God’ in Genesis 1-2?



SHOW:

- What are some old habits in your life that need to go? What is God calling you to do and replace those old habits with instead?
- What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
- How is the second step of renewal different from the third (put on new self 4:24)? Explain how you personally have seen these three steps of God’s grace taking part in your own life.
- What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, or pray about because of engaging with this passage?



OUR AUTHENTICITY EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity – Ephesians 4:26-27 – October 23, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- When was a time you got angry as a kid? Why did you get so upset? Would you still be upset if that same experience from your childhood happened to you today?
- Do you consider yourself a natural rule follower or rule breaker? What would someone who is close with you say? How does that play out in your life?
- Who is someone you know that never seems to get angry? How does that affect your relationship with them?
- How do you handle someone being angry with you? Do you resemble a peacemaker, confronter, avoider, or some other strategy for dealing with the conflict?



GROW:

- “Fools vent their anger, but the wise quietly hold it back” Proverbs 29:11. How do you usually handle your anger?
- What does the Bible mean when it says in your anger do not sin?
- How do you distinguish between righteous and unrighteous anger? What are the signs of unrighteous anger in your life?
- Read Numbers 11:1; Psalm 7:11; Ezekiel 16:26; Mark 3:5. What do these passages teach us about anger and sin?
- Read Psalm 4. What does the psalm suggest the proper way to handle anger?
- What is the difference between the ‘anger of man’ and the ‘anger of God’? Look at James 1:19-20 for help.
- Read Ephesians 4:26. What practical instruction does Paul provide to help us keep our anger under control?
- According to Proverbs 10:18, is it wise to conceal your anger and not deal with it?
- How can anger give the devil a 'foothold'?
- Is anger a sin? Why or why not? When is anger appropriate for God's people?



SHOW:

- How does the gospel of God’s grace help you to deal with anger?
- Is there anger and provocation in your own heart now? What steps do you need to take to deal with it?
- What do you learn about how God wants you to handle your anger from Ephesians 4:26–27?
- Who is someone in your life where you have not handled anger well toward and you need to seek forgiveness?
- How can the group pray for you this week?



OUR
AUTHENTICITY
EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity –
Ephesians 4:28 – October 30, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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 **KNOW:**

- What is your favorite Robin Hood movie? Disney? Kevin Costner? Other?
- Has anyone ever stolen from you? Did you grieve over the stolen item(s) or the thief?
- Did you ever steal anything when you were a kid? What happened? How did that experience shape you?
- How was work valued in your home growing up? Who did you model your work ethic after?
- What value do you place upon work? How has your value of worked changed over the years? Why?
- Who is someone in your life that is generous?



GROW:

- What are the three commands given in verse 28?
- What does Paul say Christians should stop doing in verse 28?
- What Christian virtue is espoused in verse 28? Who is someone in your life that is generous?
- Read Ephesians 4:1. Stealing may not always be obvious like taking something from a store without paying for it; What are other less obvious ways we could be not walking in a manner worthy by stealing from our government, our employees or employers, our coworkers, our families, our close relationships, and God?
- From your perspective, is work good or bad? Why?
- When we work and labor with our hand doing good to possess money, we are fulfilling a goal or purpose in our work. What other higher purpose do Christians work and labor to achieve through their work?
- What motivates you to do your best work and being diligent?
- Read Prov 21:26. What are the differences between the sluggard and the righteous in this passage?



SHOW:

- What changes must take place in the life of the man who has been stealing? See Ephesians 4:28.
- When God saves a person out of darkness there is a fundamental change in the identity of that person. It is a fundamental change to our disposition, our affections, our nature, and our identity. What are some changes you see at this point in your life that reflect Christ in you?
- Who is someone in your life you need to be generous toward? How?
- What areas of your relationship with God do you need to be more open handed?



OUR AUTHENTICITY EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity – Ephesians 4:29-31; 5:4 – November 6, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- How do people who ride horses control such a huge, strong animal? That's right—with a bit.
- How does a single man in the bridge of a boat control the boat and where it goes?
- In what ways does your speech change on social media? How have you observed others changing how they interact on a social media platform?
- When was a specific time in your life when something you said had a huge impact on your life?
- Do most contemporary believers look and act differently than unbelievers? How can Christians become different than the world, and yet remain relevant?



GROW:

- How do you know when you are speaking what is good? What do those who speak what is good talk about?
- If all believers are given a new nature at the moment of conversion (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), why do we still struggle with sin (cf. Eph. 2:1–3)?
- Read verse 29. Why does Paul say that building up (or edification) is not optional?
- Read Colossians 4:6. How does Paul's description of what a conversation of a Christian should be like challenge you?
- Read verse 30. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit is working to sanctify Christians. If we grieve the Holy Spirit, how does this affect our sanctification?
- In what areas of your life—mind, heart, or will—have you made the most progress in sanctification? In what areas have you made the least progress?
- What are the practical consequences of grieving (cf. Eph. 4:30) or quenching (cf. 1 Thess. 5:19) the Holy Spirit of God?



SHOW:

- In what ways do you struggle to control your tongue (or speech)? How have you tried to discipline yourself in this area?
- Over the next week, monitor how you speak. How often do you think that you speak in a way that is not edifying or good?
- How can we be sure that the growth in our lives is being facilitated by God and not by the unaided efforts of man?
- How can you think wholesome thoughts about a person who is acting in ungodly ways? Is it wrong to tell this person how he makes you feel? How do you confront in love?



OUR AUTHENTICITY EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity – Ephesians 4:32 - 5:2 – November 13, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

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KNOW:

- Does an apology differ from seeking forgiveness? How should we ask for forgiveness when we've sinned?
- What is something kind someone has done for you this week? What about what they did for you was the most meaningful? Why?
- What does it mean to be kind to one another?
- Is it ever right for a Christian to hold a grudge? Why?
- When did someone forgive you? What impact did that have on you?
- What does it mean to ask forgiveness or to forgive someone?
- How would you teach a child what forgiveness means?



GROW:

- Why should Christians dwell on God's kindness and forgiveness towards us?
- What is the result in the heart of a Christian of dwelling on God's kindness and forgiveness?
- Read Ephesians 5:1. What does it mean to be imitators of God?
- How does being an imitator of God relate to putting off the old man (Ephesians 4:22)?
- Read Ephesians 5:2. What does it mean to walk in love? How is this phrase of 'walking in love' different for a Christian than an unbeliever?
- According to Ephesians 4:32-5:2 (printed below), what attributes are to characterize and control the Christian's life? Can you elaborate on each of these attributes?
- How did Jesus show us kindness and forgiveness by what He accomplished on the cross. How did Jesus give us an example of kindness and forgiveness through how he lived His life?
- What does the Scripture say about forgiveness. Reference the parable of the unforgiving servant in Matthew 18:21-35.



SHOW:

- What would it mean for you to live in grace and approach life knowing you are loved and accepted in Christ?
- Some argue that forgiveness should be unconditional. Do you agree? Give biblical support for your answer.
- Who is someone that is wronged you or you have wronged that you need to seek forgiveness? What is a step you could take to seek forgiveness and reconciliation?
- What is an intentional way that you can remind or preach the gospel to yourself this week?



OUR AUTHENTICITY EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity – Ephesians 5:1-14 – November 20, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- Who is someone you can do imitations for? Can you please share those with the group?
- Have you been in a group of people when someone begins to tell an off-color joke or story? What was your response? What could you have done in these types of situations which are out of place for Christians?
- How do you feel about authority? What do you think when you hear the word “authority”?
- In what situations do you feel like you are an imposter or playing a role? Why do you feel that way?



GROW:

- According to verses 1 and 2, what is God's desire for followers of Jesus? What does Paul, and therefore God, believe is possible for followers of Jesus according to verse 2?
- *"We are to be Christ-shaped, rather than culture-shaped."* - Jonathon Mitchell. When you hear this quote, what comes to mind for you? Is this easy or difficult to apply? How?
- How are self-denial, sacrifice, and love crucial and powerful in following and imitating Jesus?
- Why do you think the topics of verses 3 and 4 are presented by Paul so passionately in this passage?
- What warning does Paul give in verses 5-7? In this context, what would it mean to be deceived with empty words?
- Read verses 8-10. What encouragement can we take from these verses? What promises from God are in these verses?
- How might the promises in verses 8-10, and the reminder of thanksgiving at the end of verse 4 help us in this area?
- Read Matthew 5:14-16. How does this relate to the passage here in Ephesians 5:8-14?



SHOW:

- What are 3 things that you are thankful for right now?
- What are things that you think the Lord wants you to work on? What are some practical steps you can take to make some progress in those areas. Then spend some time in prayer.
- In what areas of your life are you most tempted toward idolatry?
- Note that Paul says, "Be very careful" (v 15). As Christians, we must be watchful over our life. How can we take care of our Christian life?



OUR AUTHENTICITY EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Authenticity – Ephesians 5:15-20 – November 27, 2022

Additional Resources:

Gospel Identity – Brody Jespersen - <https://bit.ly/3Rm1wdV>
Ephesians for You – Richard Coekin - <https://amzn.to/3AB4699>
The Book of Ephesians – J.D. Greear - <https://bit.ly/3PYTc2x>

The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- What was a piece of wisdom someone shared with you that made a big impact in your life?
- What is one thing you are especially thankful for this year?
- In what ways have you observed in life that 'what you value gets imitated'? (with kids, work, culture, friendships, parenting, etc.)
- Who is someone that you have known that lives by the Spirit? In what ways did they live differently? How did their life impact your own?
- Based on our study of Ephesians thus far, what should we do to be Spirit-filled?



GROW:

- Read Ephesians 5:15-18. Foolishness is contrasted with understanding the will of the Lord. Why?
- The last contrast in these verses is the command “do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit.” Why do you think Paul uses the drunkenness contrast here with being filled by the Spirit?
- This is not the first reference to the Spirit in Ephesians. Read Eph 1:13. According to this passage, when do Christians receive the Spirit?
- Read Eph 2:18-22. What role does the Spirit play in the Christian life?
- Read Eph 4:30. How does this passage relate to the command in Eph. 5:18? 'Be Filled with the Spirit'.
- “Be filled with the Spirit” is a present tense verb. Why would Paul use a present tense verb to describe being filled with the Spirit? Why is this significant?
- “Be filled with the Spirit” is in the passive voice. Why would Paul teach that believers are passive recipients of the filling of the Spirit?
- Think about this: we are commanded to do something we cannot do. What does this tell you about the Christian life?
- These verses display beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit. What are they?
- How does thankfulness qualify as an expression of being Spirit filled?



SHOW:

- What does Paul want us to understand about living as an imitator of God?
- Paul exhorts us to “walk wisely.” What would it look like for you to walk wisely?
- Describe what it feels like to try to be an imitator of God without being Spirit-filled. What thoughts have you had when you found yourself trying to live this way?
- Where do you presently see the greatest need to experience God’s empowering presence in your life?