



Sermon Growth Guide

June 1, 2025

Marinated in Holiness

Ephesians 5:6-20

Key Verse: Ephesians 5:

“For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.”

Big Idea: Live face to face with Christ so that we can reflect his light.

Foundations

The moon doesn't give off any light of its own. And yet, as it faces the sun, it shines enough light on the Earth that the ancients could find their way in the dark. Paul tells us that just like the moon, we were once darkness, but now that we are in Christ, we are light. By reflecting Christ, we shine the light of all goodness, righteousness and peace (Ephesians 5:8-9).

Still, Paul makes it clear that we don't reflect the light of Christ automatically. Through a series of contrasting metaphors, he exhorts us to live intentionally in the light of Christ: Do not be deceived, unwise, foolish or drunk. Instead, expose fruitless deeds, be wise, understand the Lord's will, be filled with the Spirit and be thankful always.

Here we see the mystery of the Christian life. We live wholly in grace. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39). And yet it matters who we are becoming. Our transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit, but we must posture ourselves to be part of that work.

Paul gives us the first step. As the saying goes, we become what we behold (2 Corinthians 3:18). And we behold whom we love most. It matters that we spend time beholding Christ in prayer and in Scripture. In order to be like Christ, we must open ourselves to the work of the Spirit by being with him. Like the moon forever gazing on the sun, it is only by living face to face with Christ that we can begin to live as children of the light.

Understanding God's Word

Read Ephesians 5:6-20 together. Consider reading all of chapter 5 for context. How does the opening of chapter 5 help us understand what Paul is saying in verses 6-20? Talk through Paul's series of contrasts. How would living this way open us up to the work of the Spirit in our lives?

Applying God's Word

Do you ever spend time beholding God in prayer? What would it look like to pray that way? What obstacles get in the way of your time and intimacy with God? What are some habits or practices you do which help you follow Paul's advice on how to live?

Witnessing God's Word

This passage offers a challenge to our witness. Paul exhorts us not to be partners with the disobedient (5:7) and to have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness (5:11). Yet, we need to be in loving relationships with those who don't believe and with struggling believers in order to shine the light of Christ into their lives. Spend some time discussing how we do both things well in our everyday lives.