

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Growing Up, Not Out”

Pastor Jim Miller

THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, July 1, 2007

Read Ephesians 5: 1-20

Ice Breaker:

- Do you have any favorite celebrity imitators or impersonators?
- Can you do any impersonations?
- Who were role models in your life while growing up?

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways can we be imitators of God according to the passage? (See Ephesians 4:32, 5:2, 5:8, and 5:15.)
2. In Ephesians 4:14, Paul urges unity in the church so that “we will no longer be *infants*.” In this passage, he urges, “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved *children*.” When will we reach full maturity and adulthood? What are the three areas that Pastor Jim spoke about we need to be involved in to come to maturity in the fullness (*pluryma*) of Christ?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. In what ways might walking the Christian life be described as a sacrifice and why would it be considered holy and pleasing to God? How would this run counter to “cheap grace”?
4. How are God’s people to live in contrast to the world according to verses 5:3-4? Imagine being a Christian living in Ephesus in Paul’s day. How might the temptations of sexual immorality, impurity and greed have been greater or less than they are today?
5. Early Gnostics taught that the sins of the flesh were irrelevant to spiritual life, and therefore, freedom from the law meant liberty to continue in sin of any kind. What warnings does Paul give in verses 5:5-7 to counter this notion?
6. What are the results of walking in darkness versus living in the light? What are the fruits of living as children of light according to verse 5:9?
7. How would you explain the meaning of the hymn quoted in Ephesians 5:14 and its significance to being a Christian? Is it truly possible for one to become a Christian and remain unchanged?
8. The beginning of verse 17 could be translated “do not *become* foolish.” The Greek word for foolish is *aphones*, meaning moral stupidity in action. Without naming individuals or citing specific incidents, can you give examples of moral stupidity in action? What are reasons why a Christian might be tempted to become foolish?
9. The command to be filled with the Spirit in verse 5:18 is followed by a series of participles in the Greek linking verses 5:18 through 21 in one thought: speaking (5:19), singing (5:19), making music (5:19), giving thanks (5:20) and submitting to one another (5:21). How is being filled with the Spirit connected with living in the light?

Challenge Questions:

Where do you feel you are making progress in your Christian life/walk at the moment?

In what areas of your life do you need to make changes so that you're not struggling with the same issues decades from now?

Compare Paul's view of the Spirit-filled life with your own life. In comparison, how full of the Spirit have you been this past week? What do you want to work on so that he may fill you more?

