

**Home Group Notes**  
**Week of September 22, 2024**  
**“Shift?!” week #4**



We are in a series about what it means to be a disciple. The focus this week is on what it looks like to be a growing disciple in all areas of one's life.

**LEARN FROM GOD'S WORD**

While there are many passages of Scripture on this topic, we are going to walk through Ephesians 5:1-21 and focus on a few key areas. Begin by reading the passage.

Look closely at Ephesians 5:1-2. What do you notice about the process of growing as a disciple? Underline the key words.

**5** <sup>1</sup> Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup> and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The next paragraph (5:3-7) addresses specific indicators. What areas / spheres of life are addressed? If these areas are a problem, what does that mean? What should one do? What would it indicate if these things are happening?

Paul then calls us to a new lifestyle in 5:8-12. How would you summarize what he has written?

What is Paul's point about darkness (living like the world in secret) and light? (13-14)

A disciple's actions should reflect a change from living like the world. (vs. 15-20) What should characterize the change? Summarize the new way of thinking and willing that leads to the change in actions?

## **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

The Bible addresses multiple “spheres of life” in which God wants to transform. What spheres of life are spoken of in the Bible? How is living as a disciple similar or different in these areas? (Share examples)

Though the Bible calls us to be transformed to be ‘like Christ’ (e.g. Romans 12:1-2), it seems that some people take longer or never become mature. Why do you think this is true? Why might we get stuck and not mature? What has helped you move forward in your discipleship?

As you read Ephesians 5:15-20, what leads to the good works listed? What helps you/us stay on track to grow and change “how you live?”

## **APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

Disciples of Christ need to understand that there are multiple spheres of life that need to come under the leadership of Christ. Discipleship is a process that takes knowledge of God and His ways, time, faith, and obedience. For us to change and be like Christ requires submission to the authority of God, following the leading of the Holy Spirit, and obedience out of love for Jesus. Pray and ask the Lord if there are spheres (areas) of your life that you have not yet submitted to God’s authority. Then, meet with a friend to ask them for teamwork and prayer in this area.

## **PLEASE PRAY**

- Please pray for the men as they reach out to partner with churches in the upcoming workshop on fathering. (AFatherslegacy.org)
- Pray for TMOMs including the leaders and participants as they learn and grow
- Please pray for our global partners in Lebanon and other challenging places
- Please pray for churches as we serve together in “Love Redlands” on October 5

## **CALENDAR**

**October 5** – “Love Redlands” (sign up on our website)

**October 6** – Partnership Classes begin (membership starts here) and other Classes are meeting

**November 8-9** – “A Father’s Legacy” (How dads can raise kids to be disciples)

**November 24** – Home Groups on break Thanksgiving week

**December 6** – Women’s Christmas Celebration

**December 8** – Final week of Home Groups for 2024