

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



The focus this week is on the growth as a disciple that can happen in the different spheres of 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 ¹ Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children ² 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.

Overarching command: Imitate God, be like Him, walk in love

- The way of love involves sacrifice
- The way of love looks like Jesus Christ (Messiah, King, Son of God who gave Himself)

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 addressed the following spheres:

- Our morality (concerning sex, greed)
- Speech habits, talk
- Idolatry of any kind

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

Our new identity as “children of light”

- goodness, righteous living, truth

Our new desire is to live to “please the Lord” rather than living for what pleases our flesh

Our ways of life should be to repel deeds of darkness and be intentional about bringing the light of God into every area of our lives.

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

Transparency and obedience are essential as a disciple of Jesus.

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?

Three big changes occur as we follow the call to follow Jesus:

- We have a new identity that changes everything. It is like coming awake
- We walk through our days in the filling of the Holy Spirit and wisdom of God
- We live a life of worship with one another, finding our joy and blessing in God instead of the empty pleasures of this world

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)
Pastor Doug revealed many spheres in his message that are not in this passage. Home, work life, etc. Identifying these spheres helps us understand that God brings transformation in everything.

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?
This is intended to spur us on, not make us complacent. Pastor Doug will share that as much as 80% of Christians in churches in America are stuck in the early categories of discipleship. I hope this isn’t true at Trinity Church. We should all be continuously transformed and growing.

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?”

There are many factors that lead to growth. Included in these verses are the following:

- 1) Being intentional
- 2) Pursuing God and desiring to please Him daily
- 3) Pursuing the filling of the Spirit (through prayer, watching, and responding to His promptings)
- 4) Being in fellowship with other Christ-followers in worship, friendship, sharing how we see working and giving thanks, remembering what God has done in our lives, etc.

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