



Sunday, February 25, 2018
Pastor Don Denyes

Introduction to Ephesians 5:1-14

Calvin Coolidge had some friends over at the White House. Unsure of the proper table manners the group decided that they would simply copy the president's etiquette. President Coolidge poured his coffee into a saucer and the group copied him. He added a touch of sugar and milk, the group followed suit. As they were getting ready to sip their coffee from the saucer President Coolidge set the plate on the floor for the cat.

As Christians we do our best to imitate our best to imitate God our Father. However, sometimes we get it slightly wrong. We are called to walk in love and light. Unfortunately, this can often get sinful distorted into lust and darkness. Lust is primarily associated with greed. It occurs when we selfishly pursue our own pleasure. Such a life has no place in the Kingdom of God. We cannot walk in darkness and claim the light. God is light and as we follow Him His light will shine through us. Furthermore, exposing ourselves to God's light will transform into God's image. As we read God's Word and emulate Jesus this grows easier and easier. Walk in love. Walk in light.

Context

This week Pastor Don expanded upon last week's sermon. Last week we focused more generally on imitating God. This week we looked at what it means to follow God by avoiding sexual immorality and walking in light. Immorality and darkness belong to the old self discussed in chapter 4. Paul ends this chapter by discussing what a healthy marriage and family relationship looks like. This section lays the groundwork for a God honoring marriage. When we walk in darkness and sexual sin it is impossible to experience God's blessing in marriage.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Imitate God”

Read Ephesians 5:1-14

1-7 Walking in love...not lust

- Immorality
- Greed
- Thanksgiving
- Warning

8-14 Walking in light... not darkness

- You are light.
- Fruit of light.
- Light exposes.
- Light Transforms

...fund out what pleases the Lord.

Discuss

- 1) What are some of the idols of darkness in our society?

- 2) The passage connects sexual immorality, greed, and ultimately idolatry. How has knowing God transformed your understanding of sexuality?

- 3) Are there any areas of your life where you walk in the darkness? What would it look like for you to live totally in the light?

- 4) Augustine of Hippo said, “love God and do as you please.” Pastor Don expanded this idea to love God, know His will, and do as you please. How are you increasing in loving God and knowing His will in Scripture?
 - a. Bonus: Grab Pastor Don’s Bible reading plan for the year and start reading.

- 5) The NIV translates verse 13 as, “everything that is illuminated becomes light.” How can you bring this transformative light to a non-Christian in your life this week?