

EPHESIANS Week 6 – Mike Knott

Life Group Notes



CONNECT QUESTIONS

What is the hottest curry you have ever eaten?

If you could choose any animal to be your pet, what would you have?

Start your group session today with declaring God’s Word together from Ephesians 5:1-20. *“Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God. Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.*

Don’t be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don’t participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, “Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Paul is writing here to the city of Ephesus – it was a place of idolatry and darkness where people did what they wanted. In the two years that Paul was there, the city was turned upside down – and the whole city heard the word of the Lord! Imagine this happening in Wellington! What stands out to you from these verses in Ephesians when you consider the world we live in today?

Check out **Acts 19:11-20**. The sons of Sceva thought God’s power could be bought. We live in a spiritual world, and need spiritual power to make a difference! How do you think we can access God’s power? Do you think your name is known in the heavenly realm? Why or why not?

Check out **Genesis 3:3-5**. Here we see the serpent encouraging the woman to make up her own mind about what is right and what is wrong. This is still the case today – society seems to have shifted from any sense of moral right or wrong and behaviours which were once against the law are now being taught to our children. How can we stand out in this world and be a light in the darkness?

Check out **1 John 2:5-6** and **John 13:35**. We are called to live and love as Jesus did. This is a sacrificial kind of love – and it changes lives. Remember that we have the Holy Spirit power within us to be able to make a difference – we do life WITH Jesus not FOR him! Do you think that this is a reality in your life? Why or why not?

Check out **1 John 1:7**. We are also called to walk in the light. Consider the analogy of a frog in a kettle. If you put a frog into a pot of boiling water it will immediately jump out, but if you put it in cold water and slowly heat it up to boiling it will remain. In the same way, if we allow sin in our lives, it can be hard to recognise the danger we are in. Time to do a personal check-up – are there areas in your life that need to get sorted out? (Remember – God is gracious and merciful and doesn't want us to carry this stuff around – if we give it to Him we find forgiveness and freedom!)

Check out **1 Peter 3:15**. We are also called to be opportunists – taking every opportunity to share God's love and our testimony wherever and whenever we can. Are you ready?

PRAYER

Take some time to pray for one another to be filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit to be able to shine your light in this world!

Pray that we would be people of purity – take time to ask for forgiveness and get things right if you need to.

Pray that we would recognise and take every opportunity to share Jesus with those around us.