

MESSAGE #5 NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How do true followers of Christ live in light of what Jesus has done for them?
2. Jesus says to reject the things of the world. What are the things that distract you, tempt you and prevent you from being like Jesus? How can you pursue Jesus instead of these people or things?
3. Do you believe you are capable of changing on your own? Where does the Christian get the power to change?

MESSAGE #5 DEVO

MEMORY VERSES:

EPHESIANS 5:1-3

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved Children; and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma. But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

DEVO

God's Spirit that we talked about a few days ago is not only essential in allowing us to hear and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, but also in order to be made more like Him. The very beginning of the Bible reveals that we are made in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27), meaning that God gave US the ability to reflect His character and glory. Although affected by the disease of sin, if you are a follower of Christ, you have been set apart from the world to be like Jesus.

Ephesians 5:1 starts off by saying, "Therefore be imitators of God...". It has been said before that you can only imitate what you know.

So if that is true, what is the first step in imitating God?

Do you pay close attention to the words and actions of Jesus to know and understand His life? Do you seek to imitate His character? (Stop and spend a few minutes really thinking about this)

Ephesians 5:2 says that we are to walk in love because Christ loved us and gave himself for us. God's love is clearly shown in His willingness to die for us, to pay the price necessary to save us. God's love cost Him dearly - the death of His only son. Similarly, our love for God is shown by our obedience and our love for others.

What does Jesus say is required of His followers in Matthew 16:24-25?

Ephesians 5:3 says that "impurity should not even be named among us..."

Has impure speech, impure behaviors or the impure entertainment you choose to indulge in become normal to you?

Reread Ephesians 5:1-3

In the space below write how your life is either a living example of the words in this verse or contradicting it. Then spend some time praying and asking the Lord to encourage the areas you are imitating Him and to help purify you from the ways you have allowed impurity to enter in.