

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Children of Light**

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

OVERVIEW

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

APPLY // ROMANS 8:24

1. Read Romans 8.
2. According to 8:24, in what hope were we saved?
3. Why is it important to hope in our glorification not just in our justification?
4. Why do you think we often do not hope in heaven? What is it about our hearts and our world that persuade us to hope in this world?
5. How can we wait eagerly for heaven?
6. How can we wait patiently for heaven?
7. What role does the church community play in helping each other wait eagerly yet patiently?

STUDY // EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians.
 - a. What sticks out or captures your attention?
 - b. Identify major themes
 - c. What do you remember from our previous study of the first 4 chapters?
 - d. Review the structure (one way to summarize is below).
 - i. Chapters 1-3 – The Position of a Christian
 1. The new life we have in Christ (1:3-2:10)
 2. The new society (the church) created by Christ (2:11-3:21)
 - ii. Chapters 4-6 – The Practice of a Christian

1. The new standards for Christ (4:1-5:21)
 2. The new relationships in Christ (5:22-6:24)
 2. Re-read Ephesians 5:1-2. What's the significance of 5:1 beginning with "Therefore"?
 3. Paul calls us to "be imitators of God as beloved children" and "to walk in love as Christ loved us." Both commands are rooted in "as..." What does this tell us about the nature of the commands? Why is it important that we strive to obey these commands in light of the "as.."?
 4. Re-read 5:3-14. What's Paul's overarching point of these verses?
 5. What categories of sin does Paul warn against?
 6. What does it mean that these sins "must not even be named among you"?
 7. According to the ends of verse 4, what's the role of thanksgiving in putting off sin? Are you surprised Paul says to replace sin with thanksgiving? Why do you think he does this?
 8. In verse 5 Paul says everyone "who is sexually immoral or impure or who is covetous" will not inherit the kingdom of God. What's the difference between someone who is sexually immoral and a person who commits a sexually immoral act?
 9. According to verse 6, who will experience God's wrath? Why does Paul tell us "let no one deceive you with empty words"?
 10. What does Paul instruct Christians to do in verse 7? What does it mean to "not become partners with them?" What does this *not* mean?
 11. In verses 8-14, Paul contrast darkness and light.
 - a. What do you notice about the contrast that we "were darkness" but now we are "in the light of the Lord"?
 - b. What do we learn about the darkness?
 - c. What do we learn about walking in the light?
 12. What does it mean that we must "try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord"?
 13. How are we supposed to "expose" the unfruitful works of darkness?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: How is your hope in heaven? Are you waiting eagerly yet patiently and helping others do the same?