

The Light of Love

Ephesians 5:1-14

Taking it Home:

1. Read Romans 5:5. List some ways God has poured out his love into your heart this year?
2. Reflect on your own life. What might a casual observer learn from the quality and degree of love that you show others (your wife, husband, family, neighbors, people at church, people at work) about the greatness of God's love for them?

Prayer Concerns:

Agape Love

To have a great _____ for the beloved, by _____ acting in a way that is _____, expecting _____.

The love of God draws us to Himself [1-2]

Pictures of his love...

1. The _____ leaving _____ for us.
2. The _____ running to receive the _____.
3. The _____ laying out _____.

God's love transforms us into light [3-12]

1. Christians are _____ in the _____.
2. Christians are to _____ from their _____.
3. Christians _____ from a _____.

The light of our love draws others towards the love of God. [13-14]

We love through:

1. Our _____ of a transformed life.
2. Our _____ to lost people.
3. Our _____ that demonstrate affection and care.

Personal Study/Growth Group Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. Can you think of the most loving thing anyone has ever done for you? What made it so loving?

Digging Deeper:

Read Ephesians 5:1-14

1. What is the difference between agape love (described in the study notes) and the love we are most familiar with in our culture? As you look at your own life, what type of love most characterizes you?
2. Pastor Marc referenced three pictures from Scripture of God's love for us. What other pictures come to mind either from Scripture or personal experience? Why is it so important to grasp the fullness of God's love for us? How does this impact the way that we love God and others?
3. Verse 8 says, "...but now you are light in the Lord." What is the origin of this light? What difference does it make to view our "light" as an identity to be embraced, rather than a goal to be obtained?
4. Review Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:3-12. How does Paul describe the characteristics of those who live in the light with those who live in the dark? As you compare who you are today with who you were before you came to Christ, talk about how/where you have you seen growth (your desires, your values, your integrity, your forgiveness, your language, your purity, the way you treat others? etc.)?
5. Read Ephesians 5:1-2 and 1 John 4:7-12, John 13:35. What value does God place on loving others? Why is this so critical to the Lord?
6. If you were to rate yourself on a scale from 1-10 regarding how well you love others, where would you place yourself? Review the last section of the sermon notes, in what area would you most like to grow in your love towards others? What might this practically look like as we move through the holiday season as individuals and as a group?