

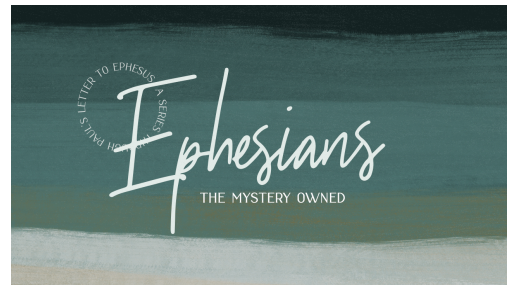
Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide

Series: Ephesians – The Mystery Owned

Text: Ephesians 5:1-14

For the Week of January 31, 2021



• Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. Do not feel like you have to answer every question. These are intended to help spark discussion. Refer to as needed. Ultimately we want God's answers not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it.

Connection and Introduction

(answer one or some of the following as you feel is beneficial for your group)

- Is anyone good at impersonations? If so, share some. Have some fun with it.
- Is there anyone in your professional life that you try to imitate or pattern your professional life or choices after? Why that person? What do you choose to emulate? Why? How has that helped or hindered your career?
- What about your personal or family life? Is there anyone in your family history that you try to imitate? Or maybe try not to imitate? Why?
- Why does how other people live get our attention so much? Why do you think it makes such a difference in our lives? How is this an advantage? Potentially a disadvantage?

Engage the Scriptures - Read Ephesians 5:1-14 with the group.

Discussion Questions

1. According to verses 1 and 2, what is God's desire for followers of Jesus?
2. How does God view His people according to these verses?
3. What does Paul, and therefore God, believe is possible for followers of Jesus according to verse 2?

Remember that:

"We are to be Christ-shaped, rather than culture-shaped." - Jonathon Mitchell

4. When you hear this quote, what comes to mind for you? Is this easy or difficult to apply? In what ways?
5. How do you think this approach to life would affect our lives if Christians applied the truth of this quote to their work and relationships?

"Self-Sacrifice without love is punishment. But sacrifice in love brings purpose." - Jonathon Mitchell

6. How are self-denial, sacrifice, and love crucial and powerful in following and imitating Jesus?
7. Why do you think the topics of verses 3 and 4 are presented by Paul so passionately in this passage? Is there something unique about these things and how they impact lives and the work of Jesus? How

might the war with our enemy (satan) come in to play in these issues?

8. How have you seen these issues damage people and relationships? What do you think this does to the heart of God? What impact should this have on us as followers of Jesus?
9. Read verses 8-10. What encouragement can we take from these verses? What promises from God are in these verses?

"The goal is to look more like Jesus today than you did yesterday." - Dave Rizer

10. Paul lists several things that can be hard for us to talk, think about, and work on in life. Why is that?
11. How might the promises in verses 8-10, and the reminder of thanksgiving at the end of verse 4 help us in this area?

Apply It - Write it Down and Pray It

12. Spend 2 to 5 minutes (or so) writing down at least 5 things that you are thankful for right now and then a couple of items you think the Lord wants you to work on. Write down some practical steps (some how-to's) you can take to make some progress in those areas. Then spend some time in prayer.