



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

SESSION 16: THE IMITATION OF GOD

Ephesians 5:1-11 • April 10, 2018

“Exploring the new standards and new relationships God intends for us”

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Ice Breaker

1. As a child who did you tend to imitate? (siblings, peers, parents etc.) _____
 Was it for better or for worse? _____

Jesus is the light of the world and has provided us with a powerful model to follow. This section of Ephesians explores how we can imitate God’s character by following Jesus.

“Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”
- Ephesians 5:1-2

1. Christ is the perfect example of imitating God. Name one or two characteristics of his life that you would like to emulate. _____

“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.” - Ephesians 5:3-4

2. How can thanksgiving overcome improper and unhealthy behavior in our lives? _____

“For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person - such a man is an idolater - has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.” - Ephesians 5:5-7

3. Why will immoral, impure or greedy people be unable to inherit the kingdom? _____

4. For all of us who have ever given in to immorality or covetousness, 5:5 can sound like a pretty terrifying threat! What does Paul mean in this verse? _____

• Who is this warning directed toward? _____

• How can you tell? _____

• What is the inheritance that they may miss out on? _____

Is the inheritance equivalent to eternal life, or is it something else? _____

5. How do you reconcile Jesus' example of spending time with tax collectors and sinners, and Paul's instruction to not partner with the immoral, impure and greedy? _____

• What does it mean to be "partners with them"? (the Greek word is literally "joint participant" or "partaker") _____

6. How should we go about exposing the deeds of darkness (v.11)? Should we be pointing out the sins of our non-Christian friends? _____

Praying for one another:

In this study we explored living a life of love, being a light to others, and the attributes of being filled with the Spirit. Thankfulness was a recurring theme in this section. Pray for each other to follow Jesus more closely with a thankful heart, and for each person to be filled with the Holy Spirit to empower them in their daily lives. Also address any specific requests or needs that come up.