

The Pattern of God's People

Ephesians 5:1–14

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. What did the Holy Spirit teach you through this week's passage and message?
2. Read Ephesians 5:1. This verse is the platform for this passage and introduces the idea that we become what we behold—or **we are formed by what we are fixed on**. Discuss this concept: How have you seen it play out in your own life? Where is your heart fixed? Are there any adjustments that you need to make to what you are fixed on?
3. The first movement of this passage is the command given to **walk in love**. Read Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 2:3–8. What does it mean to walk in love? How did Jesus walk in love? How might we walk in love? Does the way you treat and interact with others showcase Jesus' love and evidence a loving God?
4. Read Ephesians 5:5. How does the idea of **idolatry** (loving & pursuing something other than & above Christ) go against the example Jesus gave for walking in love (cf. Phil. 2:3–11)?

5. Read Romans 12:2 and Hebrews 12:2. As you read these verses, consider what *God does* and what God calls *his children to do*. What do these verses have to say about where our focus ought to be? How does transformation (Romans 12:2) occur? What does author & perfecter (Hebrews 12:2) mean—and who does that work? What encouragement do these verses give God’s people?

6. The second movement of this passage is to **walk in light**. Read Ephesians 5:13–14 and Psalm 139:23–24. How are these verses similar? What are these verses exhorting God’s people in? What promise does God give at the end of verse 14?

Please Note: These questions are intended to serve as a platform for God’s never-changing truths to come to bear on the current, real-time situations of our lives. The goal is *not* to answer each question. The goal is to follow Jesus with one another in the everyday stuff of life—as together we grow in Jesus, our love for one another, and his calling in our lives.

Putting it into Practice

- ⇒ Read Philippians 2:1–11. Spend a thinking and praying on these verses. How did Jesus walk in love? By God’s empowerment, how might Jesus’ example change the way you love others? Think of concrete examples and specific relationships where you can love better with Jesus’ love. Pray that God would work his loving power in your life in these areas.
- ⇒ Read Psalm 139:23–24 and Ephesians 5:13–14. Spend a few minutes praying & examining your heart. Is there darkness that ought to be exposed to God’s light? Trust God with those areas and pray for him to work on you to transform your heart in his likeness.