

Life Group Homework

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Let's Get Started:

“Paul sets before his Christian people the highest standard in all the world; he tells them they must be imitators of God. Later, Clement of Alexandria was to say daringly that the true Christian wise man practices being God. When Paul talked of imitation he was using language which the wise men of Greece could understand. Mimesis (or imitation) was a main part in the training of an orator. The teachers of rhetoric declared that the learning of oratory depended on three things--theory, imitation, and practice. The main part of their training was the study and the imitation of the masters who had gone before. It is as if Paul said: ‘If you were to train to be an orator, you would be told to imitate the masters of speech. Since you are training in life, you must imitate the Lord of all good life.’” (Excerpt from William Barclay’s Bible Commentaries).

Discussion: Share something you have learned to do by imitating someone.

Let's Dig In:

AUTHENTIC DISCIPLES

Read Luke 12:1

This passage is a warning from Jesus to Christians to be on their guard against hypocrisy. Obviously there is a significant difference between a true imitator (a practicing disciple of Jesus), and a counterfeit disciple.

Question: How would you discern an authentic follower of Jesus as opposed to someone who may be a counterfeit?

THE OLD SELF VS. THE NEW SELF

Read: Galatians 5:17, Galatians 5:24 & Galatians 4:22, 24

Many Christians struggle with guilt and shame because they are afraid when they fall short and sin. They are afraid it must mean they are not a “new creation” in Christ. Others wrestle with the biblical position that becoming born again does not extinguish or eradicate our old nature. We live in the reality that our two natures are at war with each other.

Action and Discussion: Have a discussion regarding what may be difficult to grasp about “putting on the new self” and the affects it may have. The goal is for people to open up about their struggles and for the group to help each other gain a better understanding and peace in their daily walk as “new creatures” in Christ.

Let’s Live It Out:

SEXUAL AND VERBAL PURITY

Read Ephesians 5:3-5

Secular culture has always forged the way in leading people away from what is right and wrong, moral and immoral, according to God’s Word. We are seeing a shocking acceleration of cultural shifts over the past few years that are not only blurring—but obliterating whatever moral lines used to exist regarding sexual and verbal purity.

Questions for Group Discussion:

What do you see that is causing this acceleration?

Do you see any indications that the continued decline in moral standards is having its effect on the church?

What specific steps do you think Christians should take to have more influence on our current culture and communities relative to sexual and verbal purity?

Don’t forget to pray for one another and bless each other with encouragement!