

Ekklesia: New

Week of June 13: Ephesians 4:17-5:20

Observation

1. Read Ephesians 4:17-5:20 together.
2. Give group members time on their own to read through the passage again. Have them create a chart on a separate piece of paper with two columns titled: 1) What the Ephesians are called to do, and 2) What the Ephesians are *not* to do.
3. What do the behaviours in each column have in common with each other?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text?
Things to look for:
 - repeating words and phrases
 - Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
 - contrasts and comparisons
 - similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
 - cause and effect relationships
 - details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
 - grammar
 - larger themes in the passage
 - key words and themes
2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. In 4:23 Paul writes that the Ephesians are to be made new in the attitude of their minds. What do you think this means? What is the link between the inner person (heart/mind) and their actions?

2. Why are the Ephesians called to live in this particular way? What has changed for them?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. Paul invites the Ephesians to live in a way that corresponds to their new identity in Jesus. How do you understand being a new person in Christ? Can you think of any other examples of where a change in status means a change in behaviour?
2. In 5:8 Paul invites the Ephesians to 'find out what pleases the Lord.' How do you think that we can find out what pleases the Lord in any particular situation?
3. In 5:13 Paul writes "But everything exposed to the light becomes visible - and everything that is illuminated becomes a light." How might the way that we live as new people in Christ be part of our witness?

Suggestion for Prayer

Share with each other what your main take-away is from this passage. Pray for each other that God would help you to live this out and that you would grow in your understanding of what it means to be a new person in Christ.