

# Walk in the Light

Pastor Paul Springer | Ephesians 5:1-21  
March 18, 2018 | Winter Cycle: Week 10 of 10

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

“Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery that mediocrity can pay to greatness.” — *Oscar Wilde*

Who did you imitate when you were younger? Would you say there's anyone you imitate currently?

### Sharing Christ and Praying for Each Other

Are you becoming more comfortable living your faith openly? When you share Christ, has it become easier or more natural?

What prayers has the Lord answered for you this week? Are you still awaiting God's response on anything? How can your LIFE Group pray for you?

### Review Last Sunday's *What Now?*

Last week, we prayed that Christ would help us to recognize, hear and follow his indwelling Spirit, and to be able to discern when the enemy is trying to derail us.

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### This Week's Key Concept:

**To live life in the light requires imitating Jesus Christ. He is perfect, which means his love for us is perfect. Satan has no power over us when we walk in Christ's light.**

### Read Ephesians 5:1-21

The first thing the Apostle Paul says to the Ephesians in chapter five is to imitate God. When we try to imitate God's love for others, it changes both how we view other people and how we act towards them.

Q. How does your experience of God's love before you were a Christian affect your view of others who do not yet know Christ?

Q. With Christ as our example, how does it look in your life to sacrificially love others, both inside and outside the church?

What we say, what we do, and what we think can either glorify the Lord or bring disgrace to his witness.

Q. What is the Apostle Paul warning the church of Ephesus about? See Ephesians 5:3-7

Q. If you are willing to be transparent with your LIFE Group, what patterns of sin, either currently or in the past, has the Lord helped you defeat?

Q. Have you ever asked another brother or sister in the faith to be your accountability partner? Was it helpful?

Reread Ephesians 5:8-17

Q. What does the Apostle Paul instruct the Ephesians to do, to counteract sin and stay grounded in Christ?

Q. According to the Apostle Paul in verse eight, were we living a life that had darkness in it, or were *we* the darkness that existed? What are we now that we have Christ?

Verse 10 states that we should determine/discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Q. How do you discern what is pleasing to the Lord?

In verses 10-14, the Apostle Paul says it is important to shed light on evil deeds and darkness.

Q. When our response to sin is silence, do you think that can be interpreted as approval for that sin? Explain your thoughts.

Q. What are the natural results of the Holy Spirit's influence in our lives?

Q. How does "thank-filled" corporate worship equip us to submit to fellow believers?

### Impact Questions

Verse 21 says to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Q. Do you think it is possible to submit to someone when you are not spirit-filled? Explain.

*Note: Submitting to another person is often misunderstood, and it does not mean we are to become doormats. Christ, at whose name "every knee should bow, in Heaven and on Earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10), submitted his will to the Father, and we honor Christ by following his example. When we submit to God, we become more willing to obey his command and submit to others — that is, to subordinate our rights to theirs.*

**When you feel down, you may find it difficult to give thanks. Take heart, because we know that for those who love God "all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). Thank God not for your problems but for the strength he is building in you through difficult experiences in your life. You can be sure that God's perfect love will see you through!**

### What now? (15 minutes)

Pray for victory over the sins and obstacles that keep you from experiencing the closeness of relationship that both you and God desire. Pray that he would prepare your heart to receive correction and that he would prepare an accountability partner who will lovingly speak truth into your life.

### Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please pray for the family and children at Emerson Elementary affected by recent tragedy, that the Lord would be a comfort in their time of grief, and that he would provide vision and strength for us to help them in whatever way he desires. Also, please pray specifically for the outreach opportunities at Northwest surrounding Easter. Pray that we as a congregation would encourage each other to be actively involved and that souls would be reached within our community.