

EPHESIANS

“A Candle in a Dark Room” (Eph 5:6-14) – Discussion Questions

Questions about the sermon? How did the Lord encourage you from this text this morning? How did the Lord challenge you from this text? Thoughts you'd like to share?

1. Taking up the thought that we are not to openly rebuke the world, consider this thought: *If we openly rebuke someone for a dirty joke, it may cut off all future opportunity for witness.* How can we be tactful and yet show disapproval?
2. Picking up a bit of our conversation from last week on 1 Corinthians 15:33, do you agree that Christians should not have unbelievers as their closest friends? Why/why not? Scripture.
3. Thinking about separation/distinction: some argue that believers should frequent taverns and have a few beers (I realize that I am asking this in the state of Wisconsin) to witness to those in the taverns. Agree/disagree?
 - a. To what degree are we to be distinct from our culture? What does that look like practically? What things come to mind immediately when you think about being distinct?
4. Verse 10 presents what should be a rather striking idea: that you and I are capable of doing things that can bring pleasure to God! In terms of how this motivates you, what is the difference between wanting to please the Lord and wanting to earn his acceptance or avoid his anger? How do we find out what pleases the Lord? What striking revelation have you had recently about something that pleases the Lord?
5. In what situations do you tend to hide your light as a Christian? How in the coming week can you be “walking in the light”? What is one thing you might do in the next day or two to make the most of an opportunity, to find out what pleases the Lord, or to live as a child of light? Paul is realistic in this passage about the challenge of walking in the light. Where have you let “darkness” get a foothold in your life?
6. Verse 11 talks about exposing darkness. If we are to focus on *living as light* in our culture, how can we practically expose the darkness? Is there any room at all for words spoken? If so, are there any guidelines that we need to keep in mind. Does this leave any room for political involvement & taking a stand for godly principles?