

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 1/12/2020

Ephesians 5:7-14 – “Living as Light in a Dark World” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Christians tend to respond to the surrounding culture in one of three ways: escape, fight, or assimilate. Paul presents a better response in Ephesians 5: shine as light in the midst of darkness. Because we have been given a new identity (light), we have a new way to live in the culture (shine), all of which leads to a new posture towards the culture.

- 1. A New Identity (5:7-8a)**
 - a. Though we were darkness, we are now light in the midst of a dark world.
- 2. A New Way of Living (5:8b-10)**
 - a. Moment by moment pursue all that is good, right, and true, seeking to please God.
- 3. A New Posture (5:11-14)**
 - a. Lovingly oppose the culture by exposing darkness. Then, expect the light of Christ to transform the darkness.
- 4. Our Response**
 - a. Be transformed by the light of Christ.
 - b. Shine in the darkness by engaging with those who don't yet know Jesus.
 - c. Shine in the darkness by living countercultural lives of light.
 - d. Shine the light of Jesus in the darkness by speaking about him to others.

Quotations

"Jesus has come as light into our dark world. And although every one of us has had darkened hearts—God shines the light of his grace in our hearts; he opens our eyes to see his grace and kindness, and he changes us. And then he calls us to shine as light in the darkness around us." -DH

"Just living differently won't transform someone from darkness to light. We need to share with people about who Jesus is and how he brings light into the world." -DH

Understanding & Application

- 1) How do you typically find yourself responding to the culture around you – do you tend to want to escape, fight, or assimilate? Share a recent example from your life to highlight this tendency and contrast it with what it might look like to shine as light in that same situation.
- 2) Read Ephesians 5:7-8a. This is our identity: we were darkness but now are light. How did you experience this transition – from a pitch-black room to light, or more like a dimmer switch? Share how your experience makes you humble and gives you confidence.
- 3) Read Ephesians 5:8b-10. This new identity leads to a new way of living. Pastor Drew highlighted that walking in the light means speaking the truth and not lying. Take time to confess specific ways you've lived in darkness, especially as it relates to truth-telling and lying.
- 4) Read Ephesians 5:11-14. Share one way you have recently exposed the darkness in our current culture and how you hope Christ might transform that darkness.
- 5) God's Spirit often presses one truth on our heart as we sit under the preaching of his Word. Take a moment to reflect on this – what did God want you to hear on Sunday? For example, did God freshly convict you of an area of darkness in your life? Did God bring an unbeliever to mind so that you would share the gospel with them?