

# Ephesians

## Week Nine: Old Life & New Life Living Turning from Darkness to Living in the Light

### Big Idea:

\*Our in-Christ identity and membership in His body are the reason and means to stop living like we have and start living who we are.

### Fallen Condition Focus:

\*We fail to realize that much of our present way of living is inconsistent with who we are in Christ (and isn't that different from that of many non-Christians).

\*We don't believe it is important or possible to actually see a substantive change in our lifestyle (we don't think it's too bad or that change can happen). So, we lack urgency or just give up trying to live in a Christ-honoring way.

### Introduction:

\*Think about a bad habit you had in college or high school. What was it? Why did you think it was "bad?" What got you to the point you wanted to stop it? What made the difference in stopping the habit?

OR

\*Why is it so difficult for us to change our behavior, particularly things we've done for a long time?

\*Do you think Jesus wants His followers and friends to live differently? Why?

\*How do you think He expects such radical change to happen in a person's life in light how difficult it is for us to change?

\*This passage addresses the what, why, and how of change in a Christian's life.

### The Biblical Text: Ephesians 4:17-5:14

### Don't Live Like You Used To (read 4:17-32):

\*What might be the significance of the way Paul introduces this section in verse 17?

\*In what ways does Paul describe the old life and old life ways of living?

\*How is the new life and new life ways of living described?

\*What strikes you about the contrasts here?

\*What does Paul specifically tell them to stop doing/to remove from their lives? Why do you think he tells them to stop doing these things?

\*How might people who follow Jesus at Michigan State benefit from taking this passage to heart?

\*What command or commands are especially challenging and/or convicting for you? Why?

### Live Like You Are (read 5:1-14):

\*How is a life that imitates God described?

\*Why do you think Paul spends so much time in this section talking about how people should behave sexually?

\*How are people who don't imitate God or walk in love described?

\*What seems especially difficult or challenging to you as you read this passage?

\*Does Paul give any reasons as why a follower of Christ should imitate God with his/her lifestyle? What are they? How do you think he intends these things to help change and motivate people?

\*Have these reasons helped you live differently? If so, why? If not, why haven't they?

## C o n t i n u e d ...

### **Conclusion:**

\*Read the fallen condition.

\*Read the big idea.

\*In what ways, specifically, does God want His followers to change?

\*Why is that important to Him?

\*Does He love His children more if they do change?

\*How does the overall flow of the this book as well as truths we've seen in this passage provide the means and ability for us to change and begin to live in a way that honors Christ?