

Going Deeper Questions

Living in Reality

Ephesians 5:1-20

May 2, 2010

1. Do you watch any of those reality shows? Do you have a favorite? Why do you think that is your favorite? If you don't watch them, why don't you?
2. In Ephesians 5:1 it tells us to imitate God. Why is this a challenge? How can we see God? Read these following passages to help: 1 Corinthians 4:16; and 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; Hebrews 6:11-12.
3. The first guideline to live in our reality as a winner for the Lord, which Paul writes is seen in Ephesians 5:2. In what way can we follow in the footsteps of Jesus to love others (don't just give the "Sunday school answer" – talk through how this can really happen, or how you have witnessed this happening)?
4. Ephesians 5:5 can be a challenging verse. Given the context of the verses that proceed it (vv.3-4), who is Paul writing about here – Christians or non-Christians? Jeremy said, this isn't speaking about losing our salvation, but losing our reward in the kingdom to come. Read 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 9:24; 2 Timothy 4:7-8 – what do these verses teach us about the reward to come?
5. Jeremy paraphrased Ephesians 5:6-10 by saying, 'Don't be deceived by empty words and the junk that is out there, but learn what is pleasing to the Lord.' What have you learned lately about the Lord and what is pleasing to Him?
6. Ephesians 5:11-14 are some tough verses to live out. Have you had to stand up for the Lord lately? How did it go? Do you have any tips for how to do that well?
7. Remember the line that Jeremy gave about wisdom? Ephesians 5:15-17 exhort us to be wise – what does it say we must focus our attention on? How can we balance our lives to do this well?
8. Ephesians 5:18-20 tell us, not only to stay close to the Lord, but how to do it. What has been your practice in life to live out these verses? How much of a habit is it to live these verses for you?
9. Of the six guidelines for living in our reality – the reality of life, which one do you think is the biggest challenge for you? Why?