

Lighting Up the World For Christ

Ephesians 5:3-14

December 3, 2017

BIG IDEA: The church can only fulfill Christ's mission in the world (to glorify God) if it is brilliantly redeemed in behavior and speech.

1. What causes my relationship with Christ to **dim** ? (3-7)

Behavior uncharacteristic of God's **holy** people

- Sexual immorality (dishonoring to God, myself and others)
- Any kind of impurity (dirty _____) also Eph. 4:19
- **Greed** (grasping after something that is not yours)

Speech is a window into the heart (Matt. 12:34)

- Obscenity (not just "R" rated)
- Foolish talk (moronic; **stupid**)
- **Crude** joking (clever; sexual innuendo)

RESTART: Be thankful **verbally** for God's good gifts

You already know this!

People who serve *sexual immorality, impurity, and greed* are worshipping a DIY god, a "functional **savior** ."

No idolater has any part in the kingdom of Christ and of God

Don't be deceived by **empty** words (rationalizations) and don't partner with *children of disobedience* (see Eph. 2:2-3).

Christ has saved and is **changing** you (Eph. 2:8-10)

*God loves you just the way you are today
But much too much to let you stay that way
And when He's changed your life from what you were before
He still won't love you one bit more*

Put off . . . be renewed . . . put on (Eph. 4:22-24)

2. Living as "children of light" changes everything! (8-14)

You **were** darkness, but now you **are** light in the **Lord** .

Live as children of light!

The fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, truth (see also Galatians 5:22-23)

test; approve; discern *what **pleases** the Lord* (Rom. 12:2)

- Light makes everything visible and **exposes** darkness.
- A **brilliantly** redeemed church will shine in the world.

✦ Life Group Homework ✦

What insight, observation, or principle from today's sermon did you find helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?

Is the phrase "brilliantly redeemed" a good description of the light of Christ in your life? In our church? What needs to change?

READ and WRITE what these verses teach about the light of God.

Matthew 5:14-16

John 3:19-21

John 8:12

John 12:35-36

Rev. 22:5

Agree/Disagree

Remaining ignorant of sexual immorality is foolish in today's world. We should discuss what's going on in order to oppose it effectively