

Ephesians: From Death to Life
Walking in Love
Ephesians 5:1-7

The philosopher George Santayana famously said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” For some reason our culture either doesn’t remember its history, or it is arrogant enough to think that it can repeat the mistakes of the past with different, more positive outcomes. For instance, economic socialism has failed in every attempt, yet we have a generation in America that thinks they can make it work.

1. We imitate God the way a child imitates his father.
2. We model Christ’s love through sacrifice for others.
3. We avoid sinful lifestyles that keep us from God’s love and kingdom.

If we become like the world, we will no longer be a demonstration of God’s wisdom in the heavenly realms. It is when we submit to the rule of Christ that God is glorified in us and in His church. Believers have a God more satisfying than worldly pleasures, a God worthy of endless gratitude, a God who has given them a kingdom. We worship the Triune God alone, not cheap substitutes.

Reflection

Consider how our culture tends to define value and worth in human beings. Where does culture teach us to find our identity? What is a biblical response to people who want to claim an identity that is different from God’s design for them? How do you respond to someone who is struggling with low self-esteem and looking for their value in earthly relationships? Does Paul’s challenge not to have immorality, impurity, or greed even named in your inventory of behaviors convict you? How are these things that sometimes occupy our minds and are evident in our actions remedied? Take some time to read through Psalm 51. Be affirmed where possible and convicted where necessary, but certainly be reminded that there is joy found in salvation and peace found in forgiveness.