

“Imitate God”

14 May 2017

Little Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto

Discussion Questions

Read Ephesians 5.1-21

1. What do you think it means to be an “imitator of God” (v1)? Is this how you think about what it means to be a Christian? The sermon proposed a contrast between imitating God and impersonating a Christian – does this ring true to you?
2. In verses 3-5, Paul prohibits certain kinds of speech among Christians. What subjects and kind of talking are out of bounds? Why is this the case, and why should we take this seriously? What might change for you if you took this instruction to heart?
3. Why do you think Paul calls “everyone who is...covetous” an “idolater”(v5)?
4. How do you interpret the instruction to “not become partners” with the “sons of disobedience” (v6)? (Note: “sons of disobedience is a Biblical turn of phrase that, in essence, describes the people critiqued in v5.) How should this affect our behaviour as a church? As individuals? Why is this something we should be concerned with?
5. Vv13-14 might seem mysterious at first (or second, or third...) glance. How does light make light? Discuss.
6. Jonathan Edwards, a great American Puritan theologian, resolved at age 19 “never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can”. Do you make “the best use of the time” (v15)? What would change if you did?
7. The sermon proposes that this section of scripture is about *imitating God* (v1), which means *walking in love* (i.e., self-sacrifice for others, and sacrificing our will to God [v.2]), which in turn plays out in the positive cultivation of three virtues: *gratitude* (vv3-5), *giving* (as light-shining [vv6-14]), and *wisdom* (vv15-21). If this (or some other) framing makes sense to your group: how could you practically help one another to grow in the areas that Eph 5.1-21 identifies?