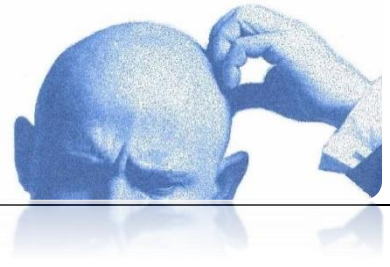


Ephesians – New Community

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations.

Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

- Consider reading **Ephesians 4:17-5:21** out loud. In this section, Paul gives three sets of contrasts: old versus new, dark versus light, and foolish versus wise. Which section stands out for you?
- What difference does it make to keep these moral instructions connected to what Paul has been saying in chapters 1-3 (our identity in Christ)?
- Read **Ephesians 5:18-21**. In the Greek, this forms one sentence. In other words, the actions listed (speaking, singing, making music, giving thanks, and submitting) are ways in which Paul envisions that we are filled by the Spirit. Which of these actions is most surprising? Which is hardest to do? Why?
- Given that submitting to one another is a radical command, Paul provides an example. First read a traditional understanding of the household code (from Aristotle). Then read **Ephesians 5:21-6:9**. How does Paul completely reimagine this social structure?

Aristotle, Politics, 1:12: “Of household management we have seen that there are three parts: one is the rule of a master over slaves, which has been discussed already, another of a father, and the third of a husband. A husband and father, we saw, rules over wife and children, both free, but the rule differs; the rule over his children being royal, and the ruler over his wife is based on natural constitution. For although there may be exceptions to the order of nature, the male is by nature fitter for command than the female, just as the elder and full-grown is superior to the younger and more immature.”

- In the light of this text (“being filled with the Spirit... submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ”) how might we reimagine the structure of our home, work, or school? How might we act differently in these places?