

## From Darkness to Light

### Intro

- DJ, deacon, director of the men's ministry MAC. Men accountable to Christ
- 4 Years in as men's ministry leader MAC-

### Testimony

- How did I come to the church? What was different? LOVE
- 4 detoxes, 3 sober livings, 4 DUIs... Totaled Truck...
  - He continued to love me, and was with me through it all.
  - **Hebrews 13:5**- "For God has said, I will never fail you. I will never abandon you."
- Sobriety Date: April 26 2016
- Got into leadership men's ministry Jan 2022/ Lost 2 older brothers and pressed all in with Jesus
  - Committed to daily time in the word
  - Showed up every week to MAC- Plugged in with the men and body of the church.
  - Prayed with God, cried with God, and experienced love, peace and joy with God.
- I share that with you to show why I am so grateful/ humbled to get the opportunity to preach today. God and this church has given me a new identity.
- That is why I am blessed to preach in Ephesians 4 and 5 on new identity, being a doer of the word, and walking in love and light.
- Pastor Chris had been in Ephesians so we will be jumping back in.

### Ephesians Context

- Author- The apostle Paul while imprisoned in Rome
  - Written around A.D. 60-62
  - The book of Ephesians is addressed to the believers in Ephesus- a pagan city filled with idol worship, immorality, and spiritual confusion. (Sound familiar)
  - The purpose of Ephesians is to remind Christians who they are in Christ and how they are called to live because of that identity.
  - Chapters 1-3: Is about what God has done for us- Our position, identity, and inheritance in Christ.
  - Chapters 4-6: How we live- in unity, holiness, love, and walking as new people.
  - The word walk the greek is Peripateo meaning lifestyle, conduct, daily pattern.
  - The goal is we pattern our daily lives after Christ. In order to do so we must get into His word, learn it, apply it, and experience the transformations for ourselves.
- Amen

**Since we will be in chapter 5 we will go back to chapter 4 to get some context**

**Ephesians 21-24**

- Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God- truly righteous and holy.
- Paul contrasts old the man before Christ vs new man in Christ
- The new man is to reflect God's character
  - How we live rightly
  - How we live purely and devoted to God

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

- This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!
- Christianity is not an improvement, it is a replacement.

### **Ephesians 4:30-32**

- And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
- We see the contrast- Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.
- Be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.
- **Story-** Lashing out with anger- words specifically-
- **James 1:22**"But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves."
- This leads us into chapter 5

### **Ephesians 5:1-2**

- Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.
- The Greek word for imitators is (mimetai) mih-mee-tai meaning to mimic, copy, model after
  - It is where we get the English word mimc.
- Paul is literally saying: "Become mimics of God...copy Him... pattern your life after Him.
- We imitate God by imitating Christ's love, sacrifice, forgiveness and way of life.
- Dear children- Beloved- Greek word for beloved agapeta (ah gah pay tah) meaning dearly loved, cherished, valued, one who is the object of deep, committed love.

- You don't imitate God to earn His love. You imitate God because you are already loved. PREACH THAT BROTHER
- **Leviticus 19:2**- Moses wrote under the inspiration of God: 'Give the following instructions to the entire community of Israel. You must be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.
  - Leviticus 19:2 written 1445 BC, about 1500 years before Ephesians 5
  - It is significant because the message was preached over 1500 years and says the same thing.
- **1 Peter 1:15**- But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy.
- Holy in the Greek (hagios) meaning set apart, sacred, different, consecrated for God.
- We are called to reflect his nature by living set apart lives.
- **John 3:16**- For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.
- We imitate the love of God which is sacrificially, unconditionally, and continuously forgiving.
- You cannot show love like God unless you are marked by forgiveness. Forgiving all of those who have wronged you
- **Matthew 6:14-15**- If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.
- Our capacity to forgive reveals our capacity to love.
- **Story**- Dad and how I forgave him and what that led to.

### **Ephesians 5:3-5**

- Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes- these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.
- Immorality in the Greek porneia (por NAY ah) meaning sexual immorality, illicit sexual behavior, any sexual activity outside of God's design for marriage
  - Any sexual practice outside the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman
- Impurity- akatharsia (ah-kah-thar-see-ah) Means uncleanness, that which is not clean. Carries the idea of moral filth, inner corruption, unclean thoughts, desires, and motives.
- It is not just about the outward behavior, it points to what is happening inside a person. Thought life

- **Philippians 4:8**- And now dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.
- Greed- pleonexia(plee oh nek see ah) means the desire to have more.
- **Story**- Conviction on wanting more
- Paul is not saying believers lose salvation, he is saying a lifestyle of darkness reveals an untransformed heart.
- Don't let comfort replace conviction.
- Turn from your idolatry and give thanks. Spend your entire life thanking God for everything you have.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-17**- Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

### **Ephesians 5:6-10**

- Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do. For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true. Carefully determine what pleases the Lord.
- Let no one deceive you. This is why we must be in the word, prayer, meditation and have people further along the journey in our life to help us learn the word and apply it to our lives.
- Reject the lies that down play sin
- If sin is no big deal then why did the Father allow his son to die, just to save us from our sin.
- Full of darkness meaning moral ignorance
- Light from the Lord meaning light as truth revealed
- Darkness disguises itself as freedom
- **Isaiah 9:2**- The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.
- The darkness represents oppression, sin, and separation from God.
- The "great light" is God's intervention ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ..
- Light produces fruit:
  - Goodness- How we treat others
  - Righteousness- How we live
  - Truth- How we think
- Walking in the light simply means asking, Does this please the Lord?
  - Does this honor God?
- **John 8:12**- Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."

- **Romans 13:12**-The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living.
- We are called to live in a way that matches our new identity in Christ.

### **3 Takeaways for everyone**

1. Live from your new identity
  - a. You are not your past. In Christ you are new, so stop living like the old you and start walking like the new you.
2. Be a doer of the Word
  - a. Don't just hear God's truth, apply it! Real change happens when obedience becomes your lifestyle.
3. Walk in love and light
  - a. Forgive like Christ forgave you. Choose what is good, right, and true, and ask daily: "Does this please the Lord?"

### **Salvation call/ Sinners prayer**

- Everyone please bow your head, close your eyes and take one deep breath for me
- If you have never given your life to Christ and today you would like to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, I want to give you an opportunity- Please raise your hand
- If you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and maybe you back slid and want to re dedicated your life today to Jesus - Please raise your hand
- I see your hands
- Church can you pray this prayer with me as one body-
- Jesus I confess You as Lord.
- I turn away from my old life and I choose You today
- Forgive me
- Cleanse me
- And make me new
- Fill me with Your Holy Spirit
- Teach me to walk in Your truth
- To live in Your light
- And to follow You with my whole heart.
- From this day forward,
- I belong to You.
- I am forgiven
- I am redeemed
- I am new
- In Jesus name, Amen