

Text: Ephesians 5:1-14

Title: Trojan Horse Christianity

ETS: Paul encouraged the Ephesians to abstain from the filth of the world and walk in the light.

ESS: For a Christian to be believable, he or she has to be authentic as a witness, and that means being different from and not like the world.

OSS: I want the hearer to live a life that is distinct from the culture in which we live.

Question: What does the text teach us about living distinctly Christian?

Unifying Word: Principles

INTRODUCTION

OUTLINE

- I. Maintain our priorities. (vss. 1-2)
 - A. Paul begins by pointing out what was to be their priorities as Christians.
 - B. It's helpful to us as we seek to be authentic Christians to keep God's priorities for our life in front of us.
 1. Imitate God.
 2. Live like Christ.
 - a) Walk in love.
 - b) Walk sacrificially.
 - c) Walk in worship.
 - C. If we focus on these two priorities, we will have little trouble living authentically.
 - 3 John 11- ***Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.***
- II. Maintain our distinction. (vss. 3-12)
 - A. Paul then reminded the Ephesians to abstain from the immorality that was characteristic of the Gentiles among whom they lived.
 - B. Contemporary Christians must live distinctly from the sin in our culture.
 1. Abstain from immorality.
 2. Guard the company you keep.
 3. Be careful with your activities.
 - C. If we will live a life that seeks the will of God more than the satisfaction of the flesh, we will live a life of distinction.
 - Colossians 3:17- ***And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.***
- III. Maintain our illumination. (vss. 13-14)
 - A. Paul ended by pointing out the importance of letting the light of Christianity shine in the world.
 - B. Now more than ever, we have to let our light shine.
 1. When we let the light of Christ shine through us, we won't have to tell others we are different; they will see it.

2. When we let our light shine into the lives of others, it exposes their darkness and creates an opportunity for redemption.
- C. Our goal in living authentically should never be so that others see us, but so that others see Christ.
- Matthew 5:16- *In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

CONCLUSION