



Building Fund



Digital Bulletin

Capital Campaign Goal = \$450,000
May - November 2026 - \$291,611

Lessons from the Churches: Ephesus

Called to Imitate GOD | Ephesians 5:1-14 9.13.26

Big Idea: We cannot allow culture to define the terms and set the rules that we live by. Nor is it the right of the church to do so; this must be determined by Jesus Christ, the one to whom we should joyfully and willingly surrender our lives.

Ephesians 4:32 *And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.*
Ephesians 5:1-2 **Therefore** *be imitators of God as dear children. ² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

→ The **"Therefore"** of 5:1 connects with 4:32

Ephesians 5:3-7 *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness (obscenity), nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting (crude and rude), which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not be partakers with them.*

- "fool" doesn't always mean devoid of a high IQ; fool means no context for GOD in their reasoning and lifestyle.

Ephesians 5:8-12 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*

Many people think Christians are saying, "If you don't live like me, you're wrong." What we want them to hear is, "How does Christ expect us to live, and why should that matter?"

Why are the claims made below packaged as hate speech?

1. I believe GOD has a higher calling for humanity in that He created male and female and established marriage between a man and a woman for life.
2. I believe life begins from GOD at conception and should be protected in the womb and throughout one's life.

→ **The only** worldview that is consistent and unchanging is Biblical Christianity. Christians are *not* always consistent... but the Biblical Worldview is!

Ephesians 5:13-14 But all things that are **exposed** are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is **light**.

¹⁴ Therefore He says: (Psalm 68:19) "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you **light**."

John 3:20-21 For everyone practicing evil hates the **light** and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

²¹ But he who does the **truth** comes to the **light**, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. ² And **walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

- **GOD's pleasure** isn't found in the offering or incense; He finds it in the sincerity and truth of the one giving the offering.
- **Ephesians 1-3** is all about what Christ did for us... **Ephesians 4-6** is about our response to Christ... It's not about rule keeping; it's all about our relationship with Jesus Christ!
- **How I talk and act matters to me because GOD matters to me!**
- We cannot serve our Lord perfectly, but we would if we could. We disobey some of His commands, but none do we despise.

- How to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves...
- Practical way to expose darkness...

When asked for your viewpoint or opinion on a potentially divisive topic (marriage, abortion, gender, justice, etc.), before you answer, ask, "Do you consider yourself a judgmental person?" The typical answer is, of course not. **Then say**, I feel safe sharing my answer without being judged by you. My answer isn't so much my opinion as my understanding of what GOD has to say about... I believe GOD has the best plan for mankind!

- We confront and expose culture with the light of Scripture and then allow it to do its work...
- Re: The Book *Tactics* by Greg Koukl or YouTube *Stand to Reason*

- **By embracing** and following GOD's path, darkness is shattered by light and sound reasoning, and deep-seated satisfaction for life is experienced.
- **Second-century pagan** medical doctor and philosopher Galen wrote of Christians – *they do two things that are crazy... they confess in a resurrected Christ, and they avoid sensual behavior*. RE: resource N.T. Wright, *The Vision of Ephesians*
- See **gotquestions.org** on the History of our Bible
- Forgiveness Booklet – pick up a hard copy on the rack outside of the main office or scan the QR Code:



→ Guests are encouraged to contact Pastor Jerry with any questions or comments: **jpelfrey@gbcmason.org**

9.20.26 Ephesians 5:15-32 - Pastor Joe

10.11.26 Four-week Series on Jonah - Pastor Joe

11.8.26 Lessons from the Churches, A Study of Galatians - Pastor Jerry

Mark your calendar - details coming soon...

11.7.26 Men's annual Breakfast and Bible Study, Saturday 8:30 – Noon

12.5.26 Ladies Christmas Tea, Saturday 10:30am