

2 Themes from Ephesians 5.1-8
JVI, Long Lake Church, 08.11.19, 1

- 1 When we interpret the Bible, there are many different approaches
 - a Sometimes we use a few Bible translations, and then commentary
 - b Sometimes we take a more formal approach
 - c Sometimes we let the Word of God speak to us as individuals
 - d Sometimes, we let the Word to God speak to us as reading communities
 - e Its seems like God calls us to the beauty of His Word in various ways and times
- 2 Since we have completed the last half of Ephesians 4, I want to start on 5
 - a I've learned over the years to trace themes throughout Scripture in my readings
 - b We used to have *topical Bible reading plans* when I was young
 - c In my readings, I remember understanding *THEMES* in late teens to mid 20's
 - d I want to share 2 *THEMES*, let's look at the larger Text: **Ephesians 5.1-8**

i. 1st Theme: The opportunity to run through challenges

- a This theme may be a little difficult, depending on a variety of factors
 - 1 I'm going to share 2 aspects of this theme that are like parallel tracks
 - 2 Both challenging tracks to run through have to do with conversation
 - b **Ephesians 5.4:** I like the KJV on this verse . . . "nor foolish talking, nor jesting"
 - 1 Not only innuendos, but crude or rude conversation, coarse talk
- * I used to think this verse was very cut and dry, so I made a commitment to stop in my late teens/early 20's. As a result, the ways that I used to hear and read began to drift away like a language that you no longer use. However, God really convicted me of this because this is sometimes how people read each other, and I need to be salt and light.
- 2 Paul does not tell us to cut off all forms of communication with the world
 - 3 Paul is talking about sanctions, but you've got to be careful with that
 - a) Sanctions are like things that are not allowed into the Temple
 - b) Those things that are allowed in are consecrated, sanctified
 - 4 Paul is making a case for the body of Christ, and our bodies as Temple
 - a) We make sanctions against anything that defiles the body
 - b) We consecrate the body as sacred space,¹ sacramental living
 - 5 Paul says that one challenge to overcome is how we use our speech
- c The second challenge to overcome is the motivation of our speech
- * I was once doing some research in community development for a Christian institution. I was invited to sit in on round table discussions from time to time. One time we hosted a home missions expert. He had some other things to talk about, but then he started to rant about Yoga out of nowhere. I guess I may have been the last in the room to know, but a local Yoga studio was offering some type of discount to the members of our

¹ David A. deSilva, *Honor, Patronage, Kinship & Purity: Unlocking New Testament Culture* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2000), 294.

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JVI, Long Lake Church, 08.11.19, 2

community of faith. He started discussing all the stretches and how they were based on other religions. Then some people at the table started trying to reason with him, but he was really set against Yoga. Then he asked me, but I really didn't know what to say. However, I do know that with a lot of things, everything probably depends on the instructor's intentions. Who was I to say whether or not that was a Christian owned Yoga studio or a Christian family operation, but they were being a great financial blessing to the institution. Whatever I said seemed to get lost in translation with the local missionary man. Finally, the one hosting the roundtable said "I don't think that you're ever going to get our community development team to say that yoga is a sin!" and you should have seen the way the man sat back in silence.

- 1 What was the motivation of the local missionary?
- 2 What is our motivation with similar discussions? **Ephesians 5.6**
- 3 Instead of "empty words" the KJV says "vain words"
- 4 And that's what they are, but we've all been there, pointing the finger

ii. The 2nd theme is a theme of perseverance or maybe endurance

a **Ephesians 5.1-2:** "And walk:" live and regulate your life for something

- 1 That something is "love," *agape*: 1 of the 4 words for love in the Greek
 - 2 *Agape* could mean commitment, perseverance, possibly endurance
 - 3 Paul says that the *agape* love of Christ brings can regulate our lives
- deSilva paraphrased: *Agape* is not only the Greek term for an enduring love. Paul equates *Agape* with our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God.² **Re-read verse 2**

- 4 Paul really helps us see *agape* on a higher plane

b Let's look at **Ephesians 5.8:** "Walk" is the same word as verse 2

- 1 It's like a frame for the whole passage, Ephesians 5.1-8
- 2 Verse 2 says we walk in committed love, we regulate ourselves with love
- 3 Through the processes of verses 3-7 God does some amazing things
- 4 If we stay with the program, we're not only walking in love
- 5 We're also walking, regulating our lives together as siblings in the light

c **Ephesians 5.4:** Paul tells us to make thanksgiving part of our lifestyle

- 1 Thanksgiving is the root word for *eucharist*
- 2 The very earliest church prayers, *Primitive Church*, prayed thanksgivings
- 3 They were saying to the Lord "You're down in our DNA"

Blessing: May we run through the challenges we face, and experience a second wind of endurance and perseverance

² Ibid., 147.