

+WEEKLY SERMON

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Christian lifestyle

Ephesians 5:3-20

Christian lifestyle is not to be considered dull, boring or a way of paying penance; rather it's a way of living a good, full life using the wisdom that we gather from our scriptures as opposed to that the world gives us. But is this 2000-year-old teaching relevant to 21's century life? I believe that "times change but people don't".

We must ask ourselves have things changed for the better for us? Look at the press or TV news and you will witness much darkness in our world, modern day slavery, child abuse in our towns, grooming by the rich and famous, the cult of celebrity (I use the word cult in its literal sense), theft, violence, drunkenness and easy access to pornography. That is not to mention the ongoing wars in The Ukraine and Gaza.

If you look a bit closer at what Paul is getting at in this reading here; he tells us that we Christians experience God in three ways. First as our Father, the creator of everything and we are made in His image. Then as the Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, God came to earth in human form, walked amongst us, experienced human life in all its facets, showed us how to live the perfect life and finally died for us on a cross taking the punishment for our sins and giving us direct access to His Father. Finally, when Jesus departed this earth, He left us His Spirit to be our guide, encourager, supporter, comforter, God's power moving amongst us to this very day.

The world outside is a slippery place, Satan sets his traps and sits back waiting for us to make the wrong move. So, I remind you of verses 15 Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. We have spiritual gifts and the fruit of the spirit to help and guide us, let's develop and use our God given gifts, whilst living out the fruits of the spirit to all around us. Know the difference between Knowledge and wisdom, we can all gain knowledge by reading our scriptures, attending worship and the like. Wisdom is knowing how to use that Knowledge to the best of our abilities, as I said before perhaps common sense should be included as a Spiritual gift.

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HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES