

Ephesians

Lesson 8: Ephesians 5:3-20

Review Questions

Take a few minutes to look back at the last bits of chapter 4 and remember these elements:

According to Paul, what makes the people of the nations act the way they do?

According to Paul, what things should inform Christians' life-together?

Paul connects sexual immorality and greed twice in this passage (vv. 3 and 5). N.T. Wright on page 60 seems to assume that he's talking about a specific class of greed that he calls "sexual greed" and links it to ancient and modern forms of pornography. What do you make of this, and do you have other theories that connect sex and greed?

In what sense does light have fruit (v. 9)? Does anyone have a different fruit-bearing noun or a footnote here?

Verse 10 is one that's particularly hard to translate because of the verb. As a group, compare translations, and talk about what Paul might be trying to get at. What element of obedience is Paul getting at here?

In verses 11-13, what reaction to "works of darkness" does Paul enjoin? What might that reaction look like in concrete practices?

Verse 16 presents some confusing advice (or perhaps Gilmour is just easily confused). If the time is evil, why would one want to seize every opportunity within it? What earlier parts of Ephesians might inform our reading of this bit?

How does your translation render "the bad option" in verse 18? In what way is being filled with the Spirit an alternative to that "bad option"?

Using some of the images that Paul has been working in Ephesians, what does it mean to give thanks or do anything else "in the name of" the King (v. 20)?