

# cpYoungAdults

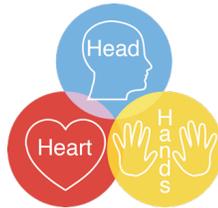
## Ephesians 5: Church as Community of the Coming King

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### 1. Preliminary Thoughts

- From discussions with Andrew
  - What does it look like to truly live with Christ as King?
  - How should we see Hudsonville? Is West Michigan "Christian" culture really a community pursuing transformation in Christ?
- Last Sunday Pastor Joel said "Social media provides the illusion of companionship without the responsibility of relationship." Could the same thing be said about the church?
- Chapel Pointe approaches the Bible in terms of head, heart, and hands:



**Head:** What do we need to **know** about Ephesians 5? *Information*

**Heart:** What do we need to **think** about what we know about Ephesians 5? *Transformation*

**Hands:** What do we need to **do** about what we think about Ephesians 5? *Action*

*When we grasp the truth about Jesus the Spirit grasps us and uses us in service.*

### 2. Some things to keep in (the back of our) mind as we look at Ephesians 5

#### 2.1 Paul's teaching flows from his amazing prayers for the Ephesians

- Prayers: 1:3-14; 3:20 (praise); 1:15-23; 3:1, 14-19 (intercession)
- Teaching: 2:1-22; 3:2-13; 4:1-6:21

#### 2.2 The tension of Jesus' "already not yet" victory/rule/kingdom

- Already: Eph 1:19-23
- Not yet: Eph 1:10, 21

#### 2.3 The tension of our "already not yet" identity: Be who you are now in Christ, not who you used to be in Adam. ***We are who he says we are!***

- Who we were then in Adam: 2:1-1-3, 11-12; 4:22; 5:8
- Who we are now in/with Christ: 2:4-10, 13-22; 4:23-24
- Who we will be: 1:10; 14; 2:7; 4:30; 6:8

**2.4** The tension of our cultural identity as community of the coming King versus the fallen culture around us.

- "Live a life worthy of the calling you have received" (4:1)
- "You must no longer live as the Gentiles do" (4:17)
- "So do not be partners with them" (5:7)

**2.5** Our tension with the defeated yet active evil spiritual powers

- They are already defeated (in principle) but not yet defeated (in actuality)  
- 1:10, 21; 2:1; 3:10; 4:27; 6:10-18

**2.6.** Metaphors for Christian community:

- Adoption into a family (1:5; 3:14; 5:1); citizens vs. aliens (2:12, 19); a temple built by Jesus (2:19-22); a body with Jesus as head (1:23; 2:16; 3:6; 4:4, 15-16), an army with weapons (6:10-18)

### **3. Ephesians 5 and our new community in Christ**

**3.1** Transforming our lifestyles (4:17-5:14)

- Paul's rhetorical riff
  - General Principle: the old and the new person (4:22-24)
  - Specific Vices to Stop (e.g. 4:17-19; 25a, 26a, 28a, 29a, 30a, 31)
  - Specific Virtues to Start (e.g. 4:2-3, 25b, 26b; 28bc, 29b, 32a; 5:1ab)
  - Motives for change (e.g. 4:4-16, 25c, 27, 28d, 29d; 30b; 32b; 5:1cd)

**3.2** Summary/Transition (5:15-21)

Note the key ideas: Discernment, opportunism, wisdom, spiritual fullness, joy, thankfulness, mutual submission

**3.3** Households (5:21-6:9)

- Households were and are the building blocks of culture.
  - Secular cultures value pride and prestige. (*Getting*)
  - Kingdom culture values humility and service. (*Giving*)
- Mutual submission is the basic principle of Christian community (5:21). The other duties flow from this.
- Identity in Christ permeates and transforms all the household role relationships.
- Notice how the subordinate person in each pairing is addressed first.

### **4. To sum up: Church as community of the coming King means**

- Our identity in Christ is *cruciform*—shaped by our common participation in his death, burial, resurrection, exaltation, session, and coming.
- Living with Christ as King is learning together how to begin living now as we will live then, when Jesus comes back to rule the earth.
- We have adequate resources to do this: the Word of God, the sacraments, the Holy Spirit, and the mutual encouragement of Christian brothers and sisters.
- How we live in households/families is a key cultural marker in the church's relationship to fallen cultures.

*Shameless self-promotion: Wednesday evenings this fall starting 9/18 at Chapel Pointe*

***Next Steps with the Bible: Going Deeper and Getting Stronger***

*(<https://chapel-pointe.org/fall/>)*