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Ephesians 5

-Following Jesus unites us with other believers but it also separates us from the rest of the world

-We don't start our own separate society

-If we are following Jesus, we are usually going to be going one direction and the world is going to be going the other direction

-Are you willing to be different? Are we as a group willing to be different?

ver 1-2
-it is all grounded in love
*We are not different so we can say that we are better. We are different but it is what is actually best for others

ver 3
-sexual immorality and impurity
-taking both sexual thoughts and actions outside the bounds of marriage
-it's wrong because we are using someone else as an object to fulfill our own pleasure
-Covetousness
-wanting someone else's stuff
-it's wrong because we are caring more about their stuff than them

*we need to care more about people than the pleasure they can bring us or the stuff that they have

ver 4
-crude talk and joking
-this is not that God is against humor
*how does your talk and even your joking express what you value?
-our speech should be with gentleness and truth

Proverbs 26:18-19
-how many times do we say something as a joke and it really causes hurt to the other person?

*instead of sex and stuff and foolishness our talk should be seasoned with thankfulness

How we treat each other in our actions, thoughts and speak should be different from the world because we have seen Jesus sacrificial love?

ver 11
-we expose the unfruitful works of darkness
-we do that sometimes by speaking out but most of the time just by showing people a different way in God's love
-other people will want to know why we are different and why it's working better than their way

Small Group
1) Why is Jesus' love different from how the world usually defines love?
2) Which of the areas (sexual immorality, covetousness, crude and foolish talk) do you need to be working on this week?
3) Who are you thankful for and how can you express thanks to them this week? Try to think of someone you don't already do this for.

youth lesson