

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

EPHESIANS

BE IMITATORS OF GOD

SESSION 6 – A CLOSER LOOK AT CHAPTER 5 VERSES 1-20

EPHESIANS 5:1-20

SO BE **IMITATORS** OF GOD, AS BELOVED CHILDREN, AND LIVE IN LOVE, AS CHRIST LOVED US AND HANDED HIMSELF OVER FOR US AS A **SACRIFICIAL** OFFERING TO GOD FOR A FRAGRANT **AROMA**. IMMORALITY OR ANY IMPURITY OR GREED MUST NOT EVEN BE MENTIONED AMONG YOU, AS IS FITTING AMONG HOLY ONES, NO OBSCENITY OR SILLY OR SUGGESTIVE TALK, WHICH IS OUT OF PLACE, BUT INSTEAD, THANKSGIVING. BE SURE OF THIS, THAT NO IMMORAL OR IMPURE OR GREEDY PERSON, THAT IS, AN **IDOLATER**, HAS ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD.

LET NO ONE DECEIVE YOU WITH **EMPTY ARGUMENTS**, FOR BECAUSE OF THESE THINGS THE WRATH OF GOD IS COMING UPON THE DISOBEDIENT. SO DO NOT BE ASSOCIATED WITH THEM. FOR YOU WERE ONCE DARKNESS, BUT NOW YOU ARE **LIGHT** IN THE LORD. LIVE AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT, FOR LIGHT PRODUCES EVERY KIND OF GOODNESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND TRUTH. TRY TO LEARN WHAT IS PLEASING TO THE LORD. TAKE NO PART IN THE FRUITLESS WORKS OF **DARKNESS**; RATHER EXPOSE THEM, FOR IT IS SHAMEFUL EVEN TO MENTION THE THINGS DONE BY THEM IN SECRET; BUT EVERYTHING EXPOSED BY THE LIGHT BECOMES VISIBLE, FOR EVERYTHING THAT BECOMES VISIBLE IS LIGHT. THEREFORE, IT SAYS: "AWAKE, O SLEEPER, AND ARISE FROM THE DEAD, AND CHRIST WILL GIVE YOU LIGHT." WATCH CAREFULLY THEN HOW YOU LIVE, NOT AS FOOLISH PERSONS BUT AS WISE, MAKING THE MOST OF THE **OPPORTUNITY**, BECAUSE THE DAYS ARE EVIL. THEREFORE, DO NOT CONTINUE IN IGNORANCE, BUT TRY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS THE **WILL OF THE LORD**. AND DO NOT GET DRUNK ON WINE, IN WHICH LIES DEBAUCHERY, BUT BE **FILLED** WITH THE SPIRIT, ADDRESSING ONE ANOTHER [IN] PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING AND PLAYING TO THE LORD IN YOUR HEARTS, GIVING THANKS ALWAYS AND FOR EVERYTHING IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO GOD THE FATHER.

IMITATORS

- PAUL SETS FORTH TO ALL CHRISTIANS THE HIGHEST STANDARD – TO BE AN IMITATOR OF GOD
- IMITATION COMES FROM GREEK WORD *MIMĒSIS*
 - RELATED TO BEING AN ORATOR
 - STUDY, IMITATION, PRACTICE
 - STUDY – UNDERSTANDING THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST
 - IMITATION – FOLLOWING THE TEACHINGS OF CHRIST
 - PRACTICE – SHOWING LOVE AND FORGIVENESS



AROMA & SACRIFICE

- IDEA OF AROMA GOES BACK TO THE IDEA OF SACRIFICE ITSELF
- SACRIFICE OF CHRIST WAS WELL-PLEASING TO GOD
- SACRIFICE
 - LIFE OF PERFECT OBEDIENCE
 - LIFE OF PERFECT LOVE
- OUR LIVES SHOULD BE A FRAGRANT AROMA TO GOD



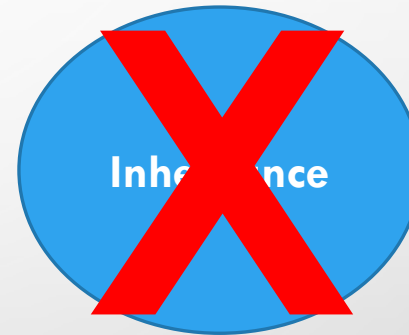
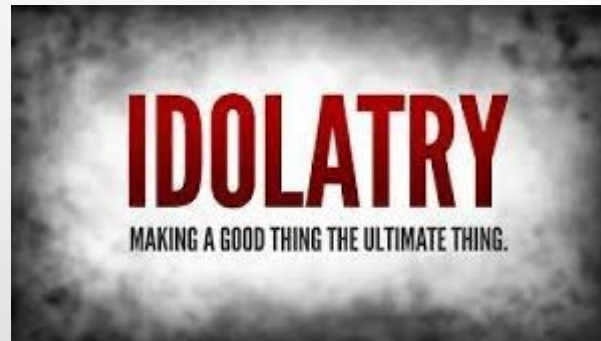
DARKNESS & IDOLATER

...TO JOKE ABOUT SOMETHING IS TO BRING IT NEARER...

Impurity

Suggestive talk

Immorality



Obscenity

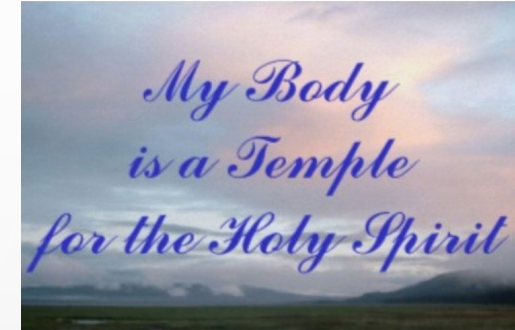
Silly talk

Greed

Sin Casts a Shadow of Darkness

EMPTY ARGUMENTS

- **DO NOT BE DECEIVED TO THINK LIGHTLY OF SIN OF PHYSICAL DESIRES**
- GnosticisM WAS PREVALENT AT THIS TIME
 - SPIRIT ALONE WAS GOOD
 - DID NOT MATTER WHAT WE DID WITH OUR BODIES
- **CHRISTIANITY MET THIS HEAD ON SAYING BOTH BODY AND SOUL WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT – BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- ATTACKS FROM INSIDE THE CHURCH DISTORTED THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE
 - SINCE GOD'S GRACE CAN WIPE OUT ANYTHING...THE MORE WE SIN THE MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD'S GRACE TO OPERATE
- **CHRISTIANITY MET THIS HEAD ON SAYING GRACE IS A PRIVILEGE AND GIFT...A RESPONSIBILITY AND OBLIGATION**
- **TAKING SIN LIGHTLY IS A GRAVE DISSERVICE TO EVERYONE!**



LIGHT & OPPORTUNITY

- **CHRISTIAN LIFE IS LIVING IN THE LIGHT**
- LIVING IN THE LIGHT PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT
 - BENEVOLENCE – GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT
 - RIGHTEOUSNESS – GIVING TO MEN AND TO GOD WHAT IS THEIR DUE
 - TRUTH – MORAL TRUTH...NOT ONLY SOMETHING TO BE KNOWN, BUT TO BE DONE
- **LIGHT OF CHRIST**
 - ...MAKES US STRONG
 - ...MAKES US DUTIFUL
 - ...MAKES US STRONG
 - ...EXPOSES EVIL
 - ...CLEANSES OUR HEART
 - ...HEALS US

Allows Us to See What is and is not Pleasing to God

We are the branches...we are administers of grace...we are temples of the Holy Spirit...we must take opportunities to share the light and be the light

FILLED & WILL OF THE LORD

- CHRISTIANS FIND THEIR HAPPINESS IN BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT – NOT THE WORLD
- WE ARE CALLED
 - TO SING PRAISE – BREATHE IN GOD'S GRACE & BREATHE OUT HIS PRAISE!
 - TO BE THANKFUL – GOD'S LOVE SWOOPEO DOWN LOW TO SAVE US...WE ARE AMAZED!
 - TO HONOR AND RESPECT ONE ANOTHER
 - TO REVERENCE CHRIST
 - TO RECOGNIZE THE DIGNITY OF EVERYONE