

# 'Our Love: Personal yet Profound'

## Small Group Discussion Guide

October 20, 2019

### **Series Overview: The Letter to the Ephesians (with accompanying ESV Journal)**

- *Our Adoption: Cosmic yet Close (chapter one)*
- *Our Salvation: Received yet Relayed (chapter two)*
- *Our Family: Inlaws yet Outlaws (chapter three)*
- *Our Sending: United yet Unique (chapter four)*
- **Our Love: Personal yet Profound (chapter five)**
- *Our Stance: Submissive yet Strong (chapter six)*

### Getting Started:

1. What's your favorite method of getting around? Do you prefer to walk, jump, swim, skip, or run? Why?
2. Throughout the book of Ephesians, the metaphor of 'walking' is used. What does it mean to 'walk in love' (Ephesians 5:2)? Why is this particular metaphor (walking) used, as opposed to running, skipping, swimming or jumping?

### Digging Deeper:

3. Get a feel for other 'walking' sections of Ephesians. Look up 2:1, 2:10, 4:1, 4:17, 5:8, 5:15. How is your understanding of spiritual 'walking' enlarged or sharpened by reading these passages?
4. Get a sense of Ephesians 5 by reading verses 1-21. Take turns in your small group as you read through this section. What stands out for you? What kinds of 'walking' are affirmed by the apostle Paul? What kinds of 'walking' are called out and condemned? Why does it matter?
5. A significant portion of the previous chapter - Ephesians 4 - also stresses the importance of 'walking worthy' of the calling we have received, Yet right in the middle of this extended teaching on purity, Paul reminds us *why* this is so critical. What is it? See Ephesians 5:1-2.
6. In order to keep this teaching on 'purity' in its proper place, we must go back and remember the condition of our hearts apart from Christ:
  - According to Ephesians 2:1-3, what shape were we in?
  - But what, then, did God do while we were still in that condition? Read Ephesians 2:4-9..
  - Timothy Keller reminds us of the power of the Gospel when he writes: *The power of the Gospel comes in two movements. It first says, "I am more sinful and flawed than I ever dared believe," but then quickly follows with, "I am more accepted and loved than I ever dared hope."*
  - What problem do we run into if we try to 'be pure' before God, before accepting the Gospel and receiving his grace?

- What problem do we run into if we receive God's grace but then disregard God's command to 'walk worthy' of our calling?

#### Living it Out:

7. In the book of Ephesians, we see an incredible progression: Unity leads to growth. Growth leads to maturity. Maturity leads to mission. And our mission must be backed up by purity (the call to 'walk worthy of the calling' we have received)! In the American church today, where do you see this progression breaking down? What are the weakest - and strongest - components in your own 'walk'?
8. How might you change your 'walk' this week?
  - ... to be worthy of the calling you've received?
  - ... to be wise rather than unwise?
  - ... to reflect love and Light?
  - ... to make the most of every opportunity?

#### Lifting it up:

9. Pray for one another, that you might 'walk in loves beloved children, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.' (Ephesians 5:1-2)