



*Gospel Witness*

Ephesians 4:31-5:10

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**Key Thought:** Lack of love in the church destroys its witness, even if the church teaches many true things.

**Key Question:** What is required of a church whose witness will reach all generations and peoples.

**Read Ephesians 4:31-5:10** What our witness requires... (hint- it's more heart than we have)

### **What our Witness Requires: United Hearts (4:31-32)**

*The Apostle Paul writes concerning the divisiveness between those who are prone to try establishing themselves before God by their intellect (mind) and those who are prone to try establishing themselves before God by their devotion (hand). Neither are what establish them and neither are the sweet aroma and pervading witness of Christ to the world that the church is to be. What results from them, even still today, is pride, demeaning others, and grudges. What God requires is united hearts.*

**1) How are you seeing the divisions of intellect and devotion held by believers impact their witness of Christ's work to the world? How do we keep mind and hand together in the witness of the work of Christ?**

- What are common wants and desires that can drive us to compare ourselves to others?
- What is it like being on the receiving end of someone's ridicule?
- How do you want to respond to that ridicule?
- What do you need in those moments that only God provides through Christ?
- What steps of faith toward unity do you sense a need to take that would help our witness to the world?

### **What our Witness Requires: Christ's Heart (5:1-10)**

*Paul describes where a heart for Christ comes from that changes us, changes relationships, and makes our witness powerful. He makes it clear that it comes by first having a healthy understanding of what is seriously required. What he describes is more heart than we have which points us to what God provides for us in Christ, as beloved children, the joy of the Lord.*

**2) What does this passage show us about what Christ's witness requires? What could make those requirements overwhelming and burdensome? What could make those requirements a joy?**

- What is your response to someone who says, "Keeping those requirements is impossible."?
- No one can make us feel ashamed or insignificant without our cooperation. What can your heart claim that pushes out shame? (vs. 1, 8)
- What do we need when hearing, "Just be like God" doesn't seem to help?
- Describe when you have seen someone's joy in the Lord fuel them to go high in their witness for Christ.

### **Q's for Kids: (Read Ephesians 4: 31– 5:10 together)**

**1) What do you think makes some people put other people down so much? Even when someone puts us down how does God want us to treat them? How would you say we have treated each other lately?**

**2) Have you trusted in Jesus as your Savior? If so, what did it feel like right after that, knowing God gave you eternal life and loves you no matter what? \*It is good for us to remember God's loves for us and that we are his children, because that joy it brings gives us great strength to love others and share about Jesus.**