

# Too Comfortable? Week 5

Sermon date 2/26/2017

## QUICK REVIEW

- 1) Upon reviewing your notes from Sunday's teaching, was there anything that caught your attention?

## The Goal

Over the last four weeks we have examined the idea of being "Too Comfortable?" in different areas of our lives, using Matthew 6 and The Lord's Prayer as references. This week, Pastor Craig is challenging us to examine the place we can be the most comfortable . . . our homes. Pastor said, "The most comfortable place most of have is our home. We really let our guard down in our homes. We should be able to let our guard down. The question is, what is revealed when we are unguarded and comfortable with our surroundings?" The Goal of this week is to unpack some passages about who we are when we are the most comfortable.

## MY STORY

- 2) What theme or idea has God been speaking to you personally about throughout this study?
- 3) What was your takeaway from last week's study?
- 4) What did you learn about how to study the Bible for yourself?

## DIGGING DEEPER

Last week we discussed some basic Bible study guidelines. Feel free to use them to help unpack the study this week as we dive into Ephesians.

Below is some information on the authorship and recipients of this book from the Faith Life Study Bible:

<sup>i</sup>"Paul wrote Ephesians from prison (3:1; 6:20), perhaps in Rome, Caesarea, or even Ephesus itself (if it was a circular letter). If written from Ephesus, the letter likely was composed around AD 54–57. If writing from Caesarea or Rome, Paul likely wrote the letter circa ad 58–63. It seems that his audience consisted mainly of non-Jewish Christians (2:11–22; 3:1, 6; 4:17–24). Paul emphasizes Christ's exaltation above all powers (1:20–23; 2:2) and instructs believers to

stay strong in Christ against the schemes of the devil (6:10–20). These believers may have been tempted by the notion that other authorities could have some claim on them."

A Note on Ephesus:

Ephesus was a harbor city and a center for trade and all kinds of sexual immorality. If you were looking for a specific type of sin you could find it in Ephesus. Similar to a modern-day Las Vegas, the city housed the temple of Artemis which included prostitution in its worship. "What happened in Ephesus stayed in Ephesus."

5) Where do you find your deepest comfort level?

The answer most people have is in their homes because we tend to let our guard down around our family and close friends. This can be a good thing, but it can also reveal something lurking within our hearts.

<sup>ii</sup>Read Ephesians 4:31-5:9

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

## Chapter 5

### *Living in the Light*

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. <sup>2</sup> Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us\* and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

<sup>3</sup> Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. <sup>4</sup> Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. <sup>5</sup> You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

<sup>6</sup> Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. <sup>7</sup> Don't participate in the things these people do. <sup>8</sup> For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! <sup>9</sup> For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

6) In looking at the passage from Ephesians, are there aspects of your family life that you have become *too comfortable* with?

## TAKING IT HOME

- 7) In Verse 1 of Chapter 5 we are encouraged to "imitate God." What are some of the ways we can do that in our lives?

The point of question 7 is to draw our groups back to the idea of Chair Time and connection with God's love found in Christ.

Read Luke 22:24-27

<sup>iii</sup> <sup>24</sup> Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them. <sup>25</sup> Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' <sup>26</sup> But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant. <sup>27</sup> Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

- 8) What theme is Jesus teaching his disciples in these verses?  
*Servant leadership, or the idea of mutual submission.*
- 9) What are some ways we can show this kind of love and service to the people we are the most comfortable with?

Here are some ideas:

- Turn off your cell phones when you are with others.
- Put social media in its place.
- Ask the question, "How can I be of service to you?"
- Work on "the elephant in the room". If you have issues like the ones mentioned in Ephesians 5, work on them.
- Remember that life is not all about me. Self-centeredness is a relationship killer.
- Stop being so critical of others.

When a person is looking to change, one of the biggest struggles is that when they give up a behavior it leaves a vacuum in which they need to put something in. Read the following verses in Galatians and answer the questions.

Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

- 10) What is God's answer to an area in your family life that we discussed earlier in question 6, and how does He want to produce "the fruit" found in the verses above in our lives?

**CHAIR TIME TOOL**

This week take some time in prayer, asking God to examine you and reveal to you the ways that you are “Too Comfortable?” in relationships with others. Use the passages from Ephesians presented earlier in this lesson as a guide. Ask God if one of these areas is something He wants to do in you. Then ask Him to replace that area with one of the attitudes and behaviors found in the Galatians verses.

In writing our Vision Statement, we need to ask God the following questions:

- 11) Are there any specific values you need me to hold on to?
- 12) Was I thorough with all my values?

In asking the above questions this week, I added two more values from my own list.

- 1) Repentance.

When I mess up and sin, I will own it and surrender it to Jesus. I will seek forgiveness if I have offended someone and seek Christ for the grace to be changed so I don't continue the behavior or attitudes.

- 2) Forgive.

I will forgive others so that I am not captive to anger and resentment in my heart. I will seek to love and build bridges with people I have differences with.

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<sup>i</sup> John D. Barry et al., [\*Faithlife Study Bible\*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016).

<sup>ii</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, [\*Holy Bible: New Living Translation\*](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Eph 4:31–5:9.

<sup>iii</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, [\*Holy Bible: New Living Translation\*](#) (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Lk 22:24–27.