

MSG: LOVERS & LIARS
SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 5:1-2
SZN 1: RELATING LIKE JESUS

Ephesians 5:1-2 CSB

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God.”

Our entry point into this Revived Community is significance. What is required of us is new. Exciting. Challenging. Refreshing and liberating. So we want to move past the shackles of dead religion, surface living, shallow friendships and dysfunctional relationships. Instead becoming, the beloved, committed to community. Committed to carrying revival everywhere we go. I’ve found that is easier said than done. And we often vacillate between two opposites: LOVER & LIARS...Let’s figure out how we can sustain a Revived Community...

Ephesus Background:

Ephesus means desirable...it was a desirable place to live.

-Center of travel and commerce.

-The city was one of the greatest seaports of the ancient world.

-Paul’s second missionary journey (A.D. 52), he visited Ephesus after leaving Corinth, and evidently planted the church there (Acts 18:19).

-Acts 18:19 CSB

“When they reached Ephesus he left them there, but he himself entered the synagogue and debated with the Jews.”

-About a decade after the church had been started, Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians commending their faith and love (A.D. 62). Shows that they had done well.

-They appeared to be devout in their faith, well organized, and busy in the gospel.

-During these early years they had been growing, expanding and doing the will of God.

-Jews and Gentiles, from several ethnicities and nationalities, had come together to form “one new man,” (2:15), “one body” (2:16).

-They were multi-ethnic as well as diverse in their socioeconomic make-up. Paul commends their sincerity in the final sentence of his letter: “Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love” (Ephesians 6:24).

-Church in Ephesus initially was a Revived Community.

1. LOVERS ARE IMITATORS OF GOD, LIARS ARE IMITATORS OF SATAN

Ephesians 5:1 CSB

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children,”

IMITATORS -*mimētēs* (the root of the English term, *mimic*, "one who imitates, emulates") – properly, the positive imitation that arises by admiring the pattern set by someone worthy of emulation, i.e. a mentor setting a proper example. It is always used *positively* in the New Testament (seven times) – of followers of *Christ* emulating a God-approved example. The supreme model is God Himself.

-Each of us are mimicking or imitating someone.

Lovers of God, Imitator of God.

-As Parents set the example for Children and Children imitate. We must set the bar for who God is.

-The bar is not our past experiences, the bar is not what we think; The Model, is the Lord.

LIARS ARE IMITATORS OF SATAN

John 8:44 CSB

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his own nature, because he is a liar and the father of lies.”

-We must examine and acknowledge, in this aspect of my life, according to the word, am I imitating God or Imitating Satan?

-This is where the work of The spirit enables us to cry out to him to change us.

2. LOVERS ARE SECURE IN GOD, LIARS ARE INSECURE IN RELATIONSHIPS

AS DEARLY LOVED CHILDREN:

From the position of Identity, unearned, secure, strengthen.

As Christ Loved Us- That modeled example, We are the object of His love

1 John 3:1, NIV

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him."

John 1:12, ESV

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

2 Corinthians 6:18, NLT

"And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty."

Galatians 4:6-7, NLT

"And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.” Now you are no longer a slave but God’s own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."

As a child of God, in Christ you are secure.

We are marked, known and identified not by our name, by or titles, political affiliation, policy positions but by Sons and daughters of God.

This settles issue of:

Identity -(Who I am in Christ)

Property - (Whose I am Christ)

Legacy - (Inheritance in Christ)

3. LOVERS ARE CONTRIBUTORS, LIARS ARE CONSUMERS

John 2:23-25 “Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.”

Did not commit— "entrust," or let Himself down familiarly to them, as to His genuine disciples.

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men.

(6) It is not good giving credit to those who trust only because of miracles.

But rather the meaning is, that he did not trust himself with these persons, who believed in him, on the basis of his miracles; he did not take them into the number of his associates; he did not admit them to intimacy with him; nor did he freely converse with them, or make any long stay among them; but soon withdrew himself.

Thought: trust/intimacy/love

This consumerism mentality- seeking only to receive something (blessings, things, etc.) can exist under the banner of Christianity while still being void of intimacy with Christ. A true knowing. In our relationships, many will only stay around as long as you're giving them something- that's not devotion...the next verse Jesus is in the temple turning over tables— —using the power of the Gospel to solicit consumerism. (John 2:13-22)

He Gave himself sacrificially!

4. LOVERS BUILD TRUST, LIARS BREAK TRUST

Proverbs 11:13 CSB

"A gossip goes around revealing a secret, but a trustworthy person keeps a confidence."

-Trust must be earned!

-You'd be surprised how influential you can become by being trustworthy.

-The reason why breaking trust is so damaging is because it goes against the nature of our Father, as faithful & Trusting.

LIARS BREAK TRUST

-GOSSIP

Proverbs 26:20-26, 28 CSB

"Without wood,)fire goes out; without a gossip, conflict dies down. As charcoal for embers and wood for fire, so is a quarrelsome person for kindling strife. A gossip's words are like choice food that goes down to one's innermost being. Smooth lips with an evil heart are like glaze on an earthen vessel. A hateful person disguises himself with his speech and harbors deceit within. When he speaks graciously, don't believe him, for there are seven detestable things in his heart. Though his hatred is concealed by deception, his evil will be revealed in the assembly. A lying tongue hates those it crushes, and a flattering mouth causes ruin."

-DISHONESTY

Proverbs 12:22 CSB

"Lying lips are detestable to the Lord, but faithful people are his delight."

-CONTROL

Proverbs 16:9 CSB

"A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord determines his steps."