

| IT FOLLOWS

4. Character Follows

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Ephesians 5.1-20

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

- The PE Teacher Problem. Have you ever thought of Christianity as a set of good behaviours to practise and bad habits to avoid, with a God who punishes or rewards us accordingly? What's the danger in thinking like this and what does it lead to?
- v3. '*because these are improper*'. Paul tells us not to engage in sexually impure, greedy or other negative behaviours, because they simply **don't fit** us any more. They're like baggy trousers. How do you feel about this? Have you ever experienced this reality?
- v8. '*now you are light in the Lord*'. How encouraging is it that your Character is not just determined by your Habits and Actions, but now flows out of the Identity God has given you? How does this change the way we live?
- What things do you feel tempted to take your **Identity FROM** – work, friends, clubbing, drink, language, money, possessions etc?
- How could you bring your new Jesus-given **Identity TO** the things in your life – work, friends, clubbing, drink, language, money, possessions etc?
- What behaviours can you see in your own life that need to change because they don't lead to a good future, please Jesus or fit with your new identity?
- What would it look like for us as a group to model an alternative, radical lifestyle as children of the light in a world where 'the days are evil'?

Big Idea: 'Character follows Identity. Our new, transformed Identity in Christ is Children of Light. Our Holy Calling is to live a life that fits that Identity, pleases Jesus and offers hope to the world around us.'

Pray through the Infinitum Prayer (attached) together as a group, with a leader reciting the words and others repeating them. Then break into smaller groups and pray for the areas of struggle in our lives. Pray for freedom from the grip of sin and for power for us to live out our new identity as children of light.

INFINITUM

Daily Prayer.

From - To

(a process and a confession)

If you are using the hand postures as a way to help you position your intention towards an Infitum Life then you might find this process of "from and to" really helpful.

It came as an idea from the Vancouver gathering where we were together discovering the necessary movements we all invariably need in our lives.



From Fists up to Hands Up

Lord I confess that I spend too much time defending and fighting my position, my attitudes, my opinions and my behaviour.

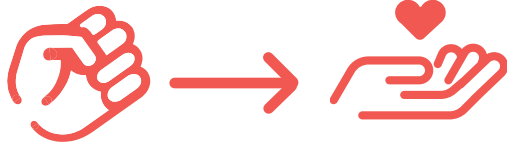
I confess that I often fight against you - your plans and your will.

I confess that these hands do not reflect how you lived, and how I have experienced you.

Instead I choose to hold my hands up. I surrender all I have to you today

I choose surrender

INFINITUM



From Hands Clenched to Hands Open

Lord I confess I spend too much time desperately trying to hold onto what I believe to be mine.

I confess that I am fooled into thinking that I am defined by what I have and what I do.

I confess that these hands do not reflect how you lived, and how I have experienced you.

Instead I choose to hold my hands open. I choose to receive from you and give to others today.

I choose generosity



From Arms Folded to Arms Open

Lord I confess that I spend too much time preoccupied with my own issues.

I confess my cynicism, entrenchment and entitlement.

I confess that these hands do not reflect how you lived, and how I have experienced you.

Instead I choose openness to your ways and your mission. I choose to embrace the adventure you call me into.

I choose mission.