



Message in a Sentence:

*God's going fishing . . .  
 . . . and His Church is the bait!*

Every Church must ask the question:

*Is God catching anything with us?*

## *How do we become 'bait' that catches fish?*

*“Come, follow me,” said Jesus, “and I will teach you how to catch men & women.”*

## **Demonstration #1: Unity**

- Ephesians 4:1-16

## **Demonstration #2: Harmony**

- Ephesians 4:17 – 5:1

## Demonstration #3: Courage

- Ephesians 5:1-20

Courage – *defn.*

*the quality of mind & heart that enables people to encounter danger/difficulties with firmness and conviction.*

Truth: It takes courage to follow Jesus!

## 1. Courageous Churches Imitate God.

- they live in *unity*
- they practice *harmony*

*Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

*Eph 5:1-2*

Key Question:

*Am I My Father's Child?*

## 2. Courageous Churches Do What Is Right . . . Not What Is Easy

Eph 5:3

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

*It's easy to be **immoral; impure; greedy***  
***What our society needs are people that are***  
***willing to demonstrate moral leadership!***

### 3. Courageous Churches Expose Evil . . . And Let People See It For What It Really Is

*Eph 5:11,8*

*Have nothing to do the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them . . . for you were once in darkness, but now you are light in Jesus Christ.*

*Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” . . .  
“You are the light of the world”*

*Matthew 5:13-14*

## 4. Courageous Churches See The Big Picture . . . And Spend Their Lives Accordingly

*Eph 5:15-17*

*Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*

- They know the clock is ticking.
- They seize the opportunity presented to them.
- They understand what the mission is.

## 5. Courageous Churches Need Power.

*Eph 5:18*

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.  
Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

### Alcohol

- “under the influence”
- a depressant
- a loss of control
- leads to debauchery
  - chaos
  - regret

### The Holy Spirit

- “under the influence”
- a stimulant
- a gain of control
- leads to godliness
  - order
  - goodness

***IT TAKES COURAGE TO  
FOLLOW JESUS!***



*And to all Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine, they must leave self behind; day after day they must take up their cross, and come with me. Whoever cares for their own safety is lost; but if a person will let themselves be lost for my sake, that person is safe.*

*What will it gain someone to win the whole world at the cost of their soul?*

*Luke 9*