



# [study guide]

## **RELATIONSHIPS: Week 3: Partners**

### **10.14.12: Ephesians 5:6-14**

#### **[warm up]**

Describe a friendship from your past that has brought you closer to Christ. How did you meet? How did you stay connected? How did your friend influence you?

Describe a friendship from your past that has hindered your relationship with Christ. How did you meet? How did you stay connected? How did your friend influence you?

What are some characteristics you look for in the life of a friend who brings you closer to Christ?

#### **[digging deeper]**

Read Ephesians 5:6-14 and describe the two outcomes that this passage mentions. (See verses 6 and 14.) How can we keep those potential outcomes in the forefronts of our minds?

How have you been deceived by empty words in the past (v. 6)? What have been some deceiving words that you have believed and where did that lead you? How can we help those we love who are currently believing the deceptions?

What are some ways we can become partners (v. 7) with the immoral, the impure, and the covetous (see Ephesians 5:3)? How can we avoid these partnerships?

Read: I Corinthians 6:9-10, Matthew 24:4, Proverbs 13:20, II Timothy 2:16, and II Peter 2:18-22.  
Re-read Ephesians 5:7-8.

According to these verses, make a list of reasons why should we avoid ungodly partnerships.

Re-read Ephesians 5:11. How is it possible for us to expose the unfruitful works of darkness in the lives of others without coming across as judgmental and “holier-than-thou”?



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Re-read Ephesians 5:12. How are secret things that are shameful now being talked about in our culture? What should our response to this be? (As you answer this last question, consider Ephesians 5:8a and I Corinthians 6:9-11.)

Re-read Ephesians 5:14 in light of passages like Numbers 6:24-26, Psalm 31:14-16, Psalm 80:3, and II Corinthians 4:6. What are the benefits we receive when Christ shines on us?

## [living it out]

In light of our study of Ephesians 5, what is a partnership God is convicting you about that needs to stop or to be weakened?

What is a partnership God is encouraging you about that needs to start or to be strengthened?

Read Luke 5:29-32. How is it possible for us to live as missionaries cleverly disguised in relationship with the immoral and ungodly without becoming partners with them?

What aspects of your walk with Christ have grown dead (v. 14)? What would it look like if those aspects in your life were awakened?

End your time in prayer for one another and for CVC – that we would all end ungodly partnerships and learn to walk in the light of Christ and godly partnerships. Pray that we would all be used as missionaries to those who are currently immoral and impure and that Christ will shine on them as well as on us. Don't forget to pray for Pastor Chad as a part of the 40 days of prayer for our new Lead Pastor at CVC.