

**CrossRoads Community Church**  
**Sermon Summary Sheet, Week of December 6, 2020**  
***“Christmas is Coming”***  
**Part 2: Coming in Love, Ephesians 5: 1-7**

By saying “Christmas is Coming” in our context for this sermon series, we don’t mean let’s get excited about the approaching event (although December 25<sup>th</sup> is fast upon us), but OUR APPROACH TO THE EVENT, i.e., how we live in light of Jesus’ coming to this earth.

**TODAY’S TRUTH** Our celebration of the birth of Jesus should be about loving Him, and loving like Him, rejecting a life that is not pleasing to Him.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK:

***Coming in Truth – Ephesians 4: 17-32***

***Forgoing Ignorance and Rejection***

***Following Instruction and Rebirth (i.e., a relationship with Jesus Christ)***

***Fellowshipping with Integrity and Righteousness***

**1. IMITATE THE LORD**

***Ephesians 5:1 “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”***

- ***As His Children – 1 John 3:1-3***
- ***With Heart Changes – 1 Tim.1:5***

**2. INCARNATE LOVE**

***Ephesians 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us, and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”***

- ***Self-Sacrificing – Rom.5:5, 1 John 4: 7-11***
  - ***Costly, Caring, Consecrating***
- ***Sweet Smelling – 2 Cor. 2:15-16***
  - ***Conspicuous***

***HOW DO WE LOVE OTHERS?***

- ***Commit to the Glory of God - Our main motivation in loving others***
- ***Commit to the Lord’s Supper - Remember what Jesus did for us on the cross***
- ***Commit to the Body of Christ, the Church - Love is a commitment to seek one another’s highest good.***

***Pastor Steven Cole***

**3. BE INFORMED OF LOSTNESS**

***Ephesians 5:3 “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;”***

- ***Inappropriate Lifestyle – 1 Timothy 1:10***
- ***Inheritance Lost – 1 Cor. 6: 9-11***

**CONCLUSION**

***“Coming in Love” this Christmas means imitating God as His children, loving Him and one another as Christ has done, and rejecting the ungodly behavior of the world.***

## **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Open:** *Will your Christmas celebration be different this year? Why or why not?*

- 1.** *Can you give an example that you have “mimicked” your parents, or your children have mimicked you? How does that feel?*
- 2.** *What does it mean to you to be a child of God? What evidence can you give that your heart has been changed?*
- 3.** *Discuss what Paul means by “sweet smelling aroma.” Dig: Look up the meaning in terms of the offerings in Leviticus 1-5. Read Philippians 4:18. What is an acceptable sacrifice?*
- 4.** *How does Paul expect us to walk in love? Discuss Pastor Cole’s list of “how to love others.” Refer back to Ephesians 4:32 for further insights.*
- 5.** *According to Paul, what actions separate the non-Christian lifestyle from the Christian lifestyle? What is the difference between foolish talk and coarse jesting (5:4) and a good clean joke and belly laugh?*
- 6.** *How does “giving thanks” oppose the worldly lifestyle (5:4)?*
- 7.** *What does being “deceived by empty words” (5:6) mean?*
- 8.** *Please pray for CrossRoads, our unity, our ministry, and your involvement to help us all grow to “the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*