

The Call of the Hour

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5:1-2.
- B. The task of Christianity is not primarily to get us ready for heaven.
- C. The message of the Scriptures is how to handle life—and not ideal life.
- D. The purpose of the church is not to make the world a better place to live in—it is to make a better people to live in the world. As a byproduct, these people will make the world a better place.

II. Christians are given the secret of life: godlikeness.

- A. The message of the church never changes.
- B. This secret of life helps a Christian live a whole life in all his attitudes, actions and relationships.
- C. We are to be imitators of God.
 - 1. This means to be godlike. This is the goal of Christianity.
 - 2. There is only one God—we are to be like the one true God in our humanity.
- D. To be godlike is to be strong.
 - 1. We must depend on the strength of God's might.
 - 2. This is a different kind of power than a world admires.
 - 3. The world's power destroys and God's power unites.
- E. One will be happy and attractive if he is godlike, but in a different way than the world expects.
- F. God creates and redeems.
 - 1. Everything in the universe gathers around these two foci.
 - 2. This is because God is life and love.

III. The prerequisite of godlikeness.

- A. God's beloved children alone can be godlike.
- B. One can only be godlike with God's life.

C. One must invite Jesus into his life.

IV. The process of godlikeness.

A. The old nature is to be put off and the new nature, created by the likeness of God, is to be put on.

B. We cannot try to put off the old nature because we are a part of the problem—we must instead come to the Deliverer.

C. We put off the old life by confessing—agreeing with God about what something is.

V. The demonstration of the true Christian life is to walk in love.

A. Love means to see other people as people instead of obstacles useful or hindering.

B. People become something for which you can do something.

C. Christ is the illustration: He gave Himself up for us.

Application questions:

1. What is godliness? Why is it so different from worldliness?

2. Why cannot one become godlike through self-effort? Explain.

3. What is the process of putting on the new life? Why cannot one simply cast off the old by himself?
