

I would like for you to write out what you would like to be said at your funeral. How do you want people to describe you?

Now I would like you to write all of the things that might be said about you now that you don't want said about you! Example: "He is all work and no play, he never has any fun!" Or "She lies a lot" or "He never does what he says he will do" or "She is always grumpy and in a bad mood" or "He was a complainer" or "She said a lot of mean things to people, she wasn't very encouraging to be around". And anything that keeps you away from a great relationship with God. Write each of these items on a half sheet of paper and then wad it up. (You should have several wadded up pieces of paper, all of us have some things that we wish people wouldn't say about us).

What are You looking for in your life? Does it match what God is looking for? Our goal over the next months will be to discover and learn what kind of people God wants us to "BE". What are the character qualities He is looking for in us?

We will be looking at the long term outcome of our life for Jesus Christ – Many start well – few finish well!!!

Next week we will be living out one of the attributes that God calls us to have and this is generosity. We will be shopping to fill Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Please bring some of your own money to put into the pot to purchase items for children around the world who would not get a Christmas present otherwise.

The following weeks will be a little different because the lessons are going to be mostly dependent on you. I would like for each of you to be searching the Scriptures finding the things that God desires us to "BE". You will have an opportunity to share what you have discovered in God's Word.

I will get us started today with a couple of "Be" statements from Ephesians 5.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Be imitators of God – imitate Jesus Christ and His love for us. Live a life of love.

- Imitate Jesus by living a life of love. Jesus loved all kinds of people, from prostitutes to tax collectors!
- To "Be" or not to "Be" That is the question!!!
- Vs. 3 – What not to "be"
  - Not even a hint of sexual immorality, impurity, greed
  - vs. 4 – obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking
  - "Be" Thankful
- Vs. 15 – "Be" very careful how you live
  - "Be" wise
    - The world says "It's ok to act like a fool till you are older"
    - It's easy to be a fool, it is hard to live in a wise way.
  - "Be" careful because the days are evil
  - "Be filled with the Spirit
  - "Be encouraging
    - The world's attitude: Tell people exactly what's on your mind! Don't hold back, tell them what you think!
  - "Be" always giving thanks
    - You don't need to say thank you to anyone! You deserve everything you have.
- Do not "BE" –
  - Foolish
  - Drunk

- Vs. 21 – “Be” submissive to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- “Be” what others need
  
- Just a few examples of some things that God asks us to “Be”
  - Be First
  - Be Famous
  - Be Rich
  - “NO” = that’s what the world tells us
  - “BE” – Honest
  - “Be” – Hopeful
  - “Be” Patient
  - “Be” Thankful
  - “Be” Trustworthy
  - And so many others – What can you find and teach to the rest of us?