



Daily Reflections

October 24, 2016

Scripture

Ephesians 4:32–5:8

Brothers and sisters:

Be kind to one another, compassionate,
forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love,
as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us
as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

Immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be mentioned among you,
as is fitting among holy ones,
no obscenity or silly or suggestive talk, which is out of place,
but instead, thanksgiving.

Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure or greedy person,
that is, an idolater,

has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God.

Let no one deceive you with empty arguments,
for because of these things

the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient.
So do not be associated with them.
For you were once darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.
Live as children of light.

Our Scripture Reflection

To a community surrounded by Gentiles, Paul writes today's text on how the Ephesians need to live. They are to practice unconditional love and forgiveness in imitation of God. In our world today where so many do not believe, Paul's exhortation needs to be practiced.

Food for your Journey

The sun came out from behind the clouds, shining through the stained-glass windows that were all around the tiny chapel. I was amazed I hadn't really noticed them before, but now the sun lit them up brilliantly

I sat and thought about how we're all God's pieces of art, his stained-glass poetry, each of us a panel on display to the heavenlies as we fulfill the purpose he created us in advance to do.

I looked closer at the stained-glass panels and realized the pieces themselves weren't beautiful, but the beauty was in the assembled pieces. Like the sin-stained human beings we are, God assembles broken pieces like us into beautiful images — his workmanship — used for his glory as his light shines through. What makes the stained glass beautiful isn't the glass itself, but the sunlight shining through it.

—Dan Kimball, "Stained-glass reflections," *Rev.*, January-February 2003, 110.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Increase my faith so that through my words and actions I can reveal Your love to the world. Amen.