

This week Dr. Baucom continues his 8-week sermon series, *In and Out*, with his sermon, “*In The Party, But Not Of It.*” Dr. Baucom will use the praxis process of action and reflection as we explore how we celebrate.

1. When was the last time you were at a Party? How much real fun did you have? When was the last time you went to a party centered on Christ’s presence? Describe the celebration. Would non-believers be surprised at your joy, or would they get the idea that Christians are boring?
2. **Read and reflect on Ephesians 5:1-21.** Sit with this passage for a few minutes. Reflecting on the whole idea of partying, listen for what God might be highlighting for you. Is there a word or phrase that stands out to you? Sit with it. Now read this passage again, aloud.
  - This passage begins with a challenge in verse 1 on how we ought to live. How does Paul call us to live?
  - When thinking about our culture’s party behavior, how would **verses 3-4** speak to how a believer’s behavior and motive might be different?
  - **Verses 6-14** speak to living between darkness and the Light. How might this truth be helpful in reflecting on how disciples might be different as we party and celebrate?
  - What is Paul’s warning in **verse 15-20**? How might having understanding of being “*filled with the Spirit*” affect our party spirit?
  - Read this passage again slowly and reflectively. Ask God to show you personally how you might be different the next time you go to a celebration and what changes you might want to make in motive and behavior. Share any insight you have with your Ignition Group.
3. Do you have different party behavior depending on where and with whom you are partying? Why, or why not?

4. In **John 10:10** what kind of life does Jesus say he brings to us?
  - How might living a full and abundant life affect the way we celebrate?
5. Read the following passages looking for how Jesus participated in celebrations:
  - ❑ **John 2: -11**
  - ❑ **John 12:1-7**
  - ❑ **John 13:1-17**
  - ❑ **Luke 5:25-32**
6. **Read and reflect on Luke 14: 1-15**, the *parable of the Guests*. Spend several minutes meditating on this passage. Rest here for a moment.
  - Re-read **verses 8-11**. What might this parable say to us as we enter a celebration? What insight might we glean about our motives and attitudes?
  - **Verses 12-14** have a great message for us concerning those we might invite to a celebration.
    - Reflect on the last party list you created. How might this speak to those you invited?
    - What about those you did not invite?
7. Read **Matthew 22:1-14 & Luke 14:16-24**, the *Parable of the Marriage Feast*.
  - What insight might you glean from this parable concerning our response to an invitation given us?
8. How does this time of study and reflection challenge you about how you are living and partying now? Any changes you might want to make?

Share with your IG what you have learned about the praxis process and how you might use it to make changes in the way you celebrate and plan celebrations.