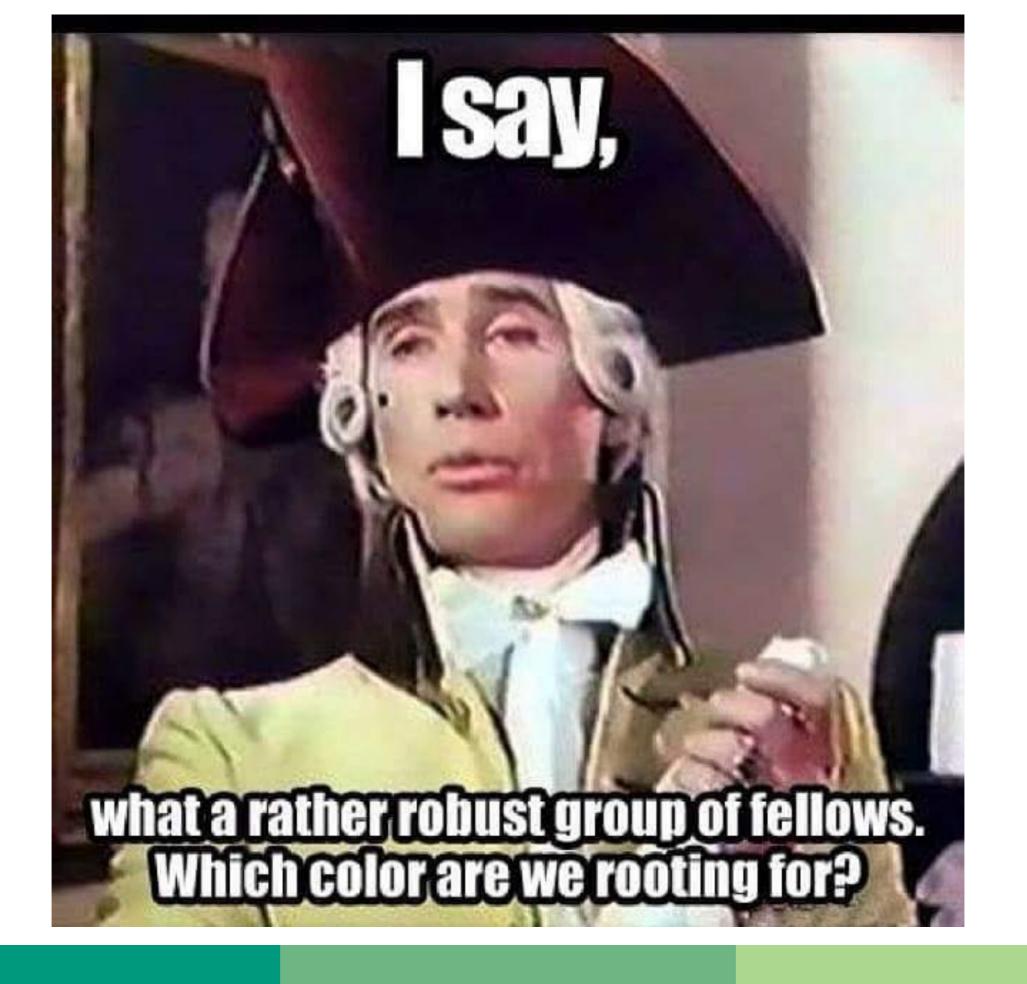


Need

Grace

Ephesians 5:1-20

Immorality. Darkness. Thanksgiving.



Ephesians 1-3 Inspirational pep-talk

Ephesians 4-6It's getting real at halftime.

We must abstain from immorality.

(Ephesians 5:1-7, 18a)

1) Sexual

Ephesians 5:31

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

(citing Genesis 2:24)

In a family, guests are not outsiders to be kept at bay but friends to be welcomed with hospitality. At our church, we invite guests to join the church family, but if they're not ready we're stoked to welcome them into the "living room," give them the "best seats" in the house, and lavish the best we have in our "cupboards" to care for them and make them feel at home.

Guidance for Churches on Membership, Baptism, Communion, Leadership, and Service for Gay and Lesbian People by The Center for Faith Sexuality, and Gender.

But there are expectations in a family: This is how we do life together. People joke about parents saying, "As long as you live under my roof..." but there is a reality that family needs a cohesive vision of life together. Family membership clarifies what we believe God the Father's vision is for us as his children, adopted into his home "under the roof" of his authority, through the presence of Jesus in the power of his Spirit.

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- 1) Sexual
- 2) Greed

- 1) Sexual
- 2) Greed
- 3) Spoken

- 1) Sexual
- 2) Greed
- 3) Spoken
- 4) Drunken

We must abstain from immorality and expose our darkness to Christ's light.

(Ephesians 5:8-14, 18b)

We must abstain from immorality and expose our darkness to Christ's light.

We have a new identity in Christ.

John 1:5

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

We must abstain from immorality and expose our darkness to Christ's light.

We have a new identity in Christ.

Shine Christ on your darkness.

We must abstain from immorality, expose our darkness to Christ's light, and give thanks to God.

(Ephesians 5:15-20)