

11.24.19 ~ Ephesians 5:3-7, Living to Please God

Last week, in **Ephesians 5:1-2**, we were exhorted to live as dearly loved children of God, exemplifying the life of Jesus Christ, while seeking to please our Father in heaven.

The lives we live should be antithetical to what is said, done and sought after by those who reject God, God's Word, and God's Son.

Read **Ephesians 5:3-7**. Paul exhorts us not to participate in immoral, impure, greedy, and/or obscene behaviors and speech, for these things are offensive to God, and unbecoming of a child of God.

Paul warns us (**Ephesians 5:3**), about **immorality** [Gk. **porneia** refers to all sexual sin, i.e., fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pedophilia, pornography]. The Greek word translated **impurity** here, references all filthiness in reference to immoral thoughts, passions, fantasies, and behaviors.

The word translated **greed** here refers to all self-centered lusting, seeking to increase acquisition of something in order to heighten gratification, i.e., covetousness leading to avarice (wrongly assuming that acquiring more will eventually satisfy and be enough; but ultimately, avarice replaces worshipping God with worshipping God's gifts, turning what God has made into an idol to be worshipped).

The entertainment industry (music, magazines, books, movies, videos, etc.) uses immoral and impure content to sell its vile and godless products .

American commercialism thrives on its ability to create and maintain an ever increasing sexual appetite among its consumers.

The largest industry in America today is a combination of pornography, prostitution, X-rated films, and suggestive television programing. Even more alarming is the fact that these perversions are done openly, and for the most part, they are legally protected by first amendment rights.

More and more, what you watch, read and listen to is being injected and infected with immoral, impure and profane subject matter that is openly depicted in its rawest forms.

The pornography market is not confined to perverts, degenerates, deviants, and addicts; actually, pornographies largest client base is

middle class America, and our permissive society supports the freedom of those who enjoy written, spoken, and visual pornography.

Ephesians 5:4 ~ The Greek word translated **filthiness** has as its meaning "all that is profane, disgraceful, obscene, vile and dirty," in reference to speech.

The word **silly talk** is a compound made up of two Greek words **moros** (dull, stupid, silly) and **lego** (to speak] meaning, stupid talk that proceeds from the mouth of one who is morally deficit. This is the gutter talk that is spewed from the mouth of drunks and *ne'er-do-wells*.

Coarse jesting [joking] refers to speech that seems determined to turn even the most innocent act or saying into something perverted and filthy, i.e., to be crude and rude and offensive. Jesus makes a strong statement in Matthew 15, about the use our mouths (see **Matthew 15:17-20**).

Back to **Ephesians 5:5**. Paul tells us here that the sinful nature is displayed in immorality, impurity, and greed, and is characteristic of those who do not know or belong to God (see **1Corinthians 6:9-11**; **Galatians 5:19-21**).

In **Ephesians 5:6**, Paul admonishes God's people not live like those who don't know God, for God will not be mocked; God knows who the hypocrites are and He will not tolerate unrepentant sin.

Listen! Everyone whose life is dominated by immorality, impurity and greed, will spend eternity in hell; it is not that God's children haven't committed any of these sins, for as we read earlier (**1Corinthians 6:11**) "Such were some of you." Christians are not to be known as people who are controlled by or are openly participating in these sins in our manner of life, for it is (**Galatians 5:21**) "those who practice such things," who will not inherit the kingdom of heaven.

Paul now says in **Ephesians 5:7**, that we are not to be partners with people who live in a continual pattern of sin, i.e., we are not to be in intimate fellowship with those who promote obscene talking and joking about immoral and impure things, for this dishonors the Lord our God and causes us to become desensitized to the mind of God in Christ.

Christians are not to be like the ungodly (see **Psalm 1:1-3**). God's blessings come to those who don't walk in the counsel of the wicked, don't stand in the path of sinners, and don't sit in the seat of scoffers [mockers].

The "counsel of the wicked" describes the worldview of those who do not know the Lord.

The "path of sinners" describes their lifestyle choices.

The "seat of scoffers" is the place of intimate fellowship with those who openly reject Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our daily interactions with unbelievers can lead us into relationships where we are influenced by those who do not know the Lord; perhaps desensitizing us to the holiness of God. We must therefore be mindful, alert, and forewarned, as we are either influencing others for God or they are influencing us toward godlessness!

2Peter 1:3-4, "His [God's] divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life [biological life] and godliness [spiritual life], through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust."

The ways of God and the ways of the world are very different. Your life as a Christian must be different from those who are not Christians, if there is no difference, you probably don't, as yet, belong to God through Christ!

Christians are not to live like unbelievers! Most people confuse religion with Christianity, but the religious community as a whole, in America, is not a Christian community; the reality is that most religious belief and practice in America doesn't align with Christianity, as it is taught in God's Word.

The religious community in America attempts to redefine and reinterpret the instruction found in God's Word, so that it fits its own godless agenda, pursuits, and pleasures.

Don't be deceived! When you come to Christ you must have a change of mind and heart concerning sin, self, and God; this change is

repentance, and no one can come to Christ and be born again apart from the repentance of sins.

If you say you are a believer and follower of Jesus Christ and yet you do not have a desire to serve and honor Him, to know what His Word teaches and to apply it to your own life, it is very possible that you have not been born again and you are still dead in your sins and separated from life with God (see **John 1:12-13; John 3:1-8; 5:24**).

Jesus must make a difference in your life. No one coming to Christ can expect to remain in the same condition they were in before being born again, by the Spirit of God (cf. 2Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20).

1John 5:11-13, "And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life."

If you belong to Christ, you know you have forgiveness and eternal life, and you will desire to live in a manner that pleases God.

If you have no desire to please God, you do not belong to Him; and you need to ask Him right now, right here, to forgive your sins and save your soul (cf. **Romans 10:9-10, 13**).

Jesus said (**John 14:6**), "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

1Timothy 2:3-4 says, "God our Savior, ...desires all men (women and children of age) to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." God turns no one away from salvation, but don't be deceived, you have to come to God His way, repenting of your sins and believing that Jesus took your punishment upon Himself on the Cross, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the grave, so that you might be set free from sin's penalty, now and forever, having been granted eternal life; and as a believer and follower of Jesus Christ: God's Son, Lord and Savior, as long as you have have life, you will seek to know, to obey to honor, and to proclaim the Word of God, as God enables you to do so .

Christians serve at the pleasure of God, the Creator of the heavens and earth and all that is within them; and we indeed, among all peoples should

be a thankful people, for God is (**Revelation 1:8**), "the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty," and therefore we can exclaim, as John writes down in **Revelation 7:12**, "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Pastor Mike

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