

LIVING THE CHRISTLIFE
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Studies in Ephesians
Ephesians 5:3-16

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

—Ephesians 5:3-16 (ESV)

v 3 – sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness...

Covetousness. ... neglected on our list of things to shun... or even to understand?
Emphasis is on Christlike living; these are *examples* of wrong behaviors.

v 4 – no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking ...

This does not mean “in church,” it means “in your life”

“instead let there be thanksgiving...”

Do this instead!

Not just as a “technique,” but because the Lord deserves our thanks

v 5 – “For you may be sure of this...”

Paul is impressing on us the importance of what he is teaching

“...has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.”

No fine print. “You may be sure of this.”

It is not up to us; it is up to God.

v 6—“Let no one deceive you...”

Then and now.

“for because of these things...”

God’s wrath

Even much of the Church has been lulled into non-belief in God’s wrath against sin

Teachings to the contrary are “empty words”

“do not become partners with them”

We are partners with the people we act like

We are to be partners with Christ!

Darkness and Light

Darkness represents both ignorance of God and willful sin

Light represents understanding the truth—things being made clear—and walking in that understanding

Light means nothing hidden and nothing to hide!

vv 8-9 – “You were once darkness...”

Not just “in” darkness—you were darkness and now *are* light in the Lord

Jesus said “I am the light of the world” and “You are the light of the world”!

Worth a meditation... imagine if your life literally gave off light in a world that was always in a state of darkness. That is the image.

Walk as children of light.

Fruit is “all that is good and right and true”

v 10 – “and try to discern...”

more lit. – “discerning what is well-pleasing to the Lord.”

v 11 – “Take no part...”

An absolute prohibition

Compromise is fatal to our witness

“expose them”

Directly and indirectly

v 12 – “for it is shameful even to speak...”

For anyone who relegates Christian teaching to being “old-fashioned”...

The Christian message was counter to a culture even more libertine than our own

It is sin that is “old-fashioned”

v 13 – “But when anything...”

The remedy for darkness is light

What once was darkness can become light in Christ

v 14 – “therefore it says”

There are many OT Scriptures referring to waking up.

“Our dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!”

(Isaiah 26:19), perhaps a less-likely candidate, but it mentions the “dead shall live.”

It is possible that the reference ends after “from the dead” and what follows was the continuation of Paul’s own teaching.

This could also be a quote from a lost Christian hymn or proverb.

v 15 – “Look carefully then...”

This is something we must be diligent about...

Some may be much more diligent about monitoring their health-related living habits than they are their Christlife living habits

“because the days are evil.”

And they still are.

We are not called to “go with the flow”!