

Walking as imitators of God  
Ephesians 5:3-5

I. Intro

- A. Prayer seminar recap
- B. Men's Leadership class
- C. The work of the church continues!

II. Text

A. Verse 3

1. Sexual Immorality: John Piper: So "sexual immorality" includes sexual relations before marriage and wrong sexual relations among married people.
  - a) Sexual Immorality is any sexual activity outside of the plan of God
  - b) Deviating from God's plan in regards to sexual behavior is sin.
    - (1) This includes pornography, promiscuity, homosexuality, adultery, and any other sexual act outside of the marriage relationship.
    - (2) What about those who are struggling in this area?
      - (a) Repent! Turn from your sin and back to God's plan
      - (b) Receive the clear teaching from Ephesians and stop making excuses for sin.
2. All Impurity:
  - a) Just in case you were looking for a loophole, Paul adds this statement
  - b) This includes motives and morals.
3. Covetousness
  - a) Greed and jealousy are dangerous to the life of a believer
  - b) If you do not struggle with the previous items mentioned by Paul, this one will challenge you
4. Don't let it be named among you!
5. As is proper among saints

B. Verse 4

1. No filthy or foolish talk:
  - a) build up, don't tear down
  - b) Don't add to the depravity of the world by your speech or actions
2. But thanksgiving
  - a) This is the action of a follower
  - b) Replace that which is impure with that which is pure and holy.

C. Verse 5

1. People who have the presence of God in them will not embrace a lifestyle dishonoring to the Lord
2. A mark of confirmation of salvation is freedom from these sins of commission

III. Point

A. We have a sin problem

1. Sin, as we have seen in Ephesians thus far: Missing the mark, and deviating from the path
2. Choosing to continue in sin is a problem that should be a battle for all of us.
3. Sin becomes a problem when it takes root in our lives:
  - a) James 1:12-15 ESV 12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.
  - b) When we determine we are going to act in whatever way sounds good to us, we have just taken on the role of God, and we are not equipped for that.

- c) That path leads to destruction.
- 4. This is a problem for all humanity:
  - a) Adam and Eve chose sin, God did not excuse their sin, but made a covering for their sin, and made a promise to provide a way to salvation.
- 5. Do not excuse your sin, instead allow God to work in your life to overcome sin!
- B. We have a heart problem
  - 1. Why do we have such a sin problem? Because we have a heart problem!
  - 2. Jeremiah 17:7-10 ESV 7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit." 9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."
  - 3. The solution to our heart problem is to TRUST IN THE LORD!
  - 4. We fail to follow appropriately in trusting God, because of the heart problem
    - a) It is deceitful and sick, influenced by our sin nature
    - b) The remedy is TRUST and FAITH, we find this in the process of sanctification.
    - c) Don't choose human reasoning and philosophy, choose to trust God in all things and in all ways!
  - 5. This is the walk of humility.
- C. We do not have a Savior problem
  - 1. Jesus Christ died and covered our sin...once for all...and when He said "It is finished" HE MEANT IT!
  - 2. We can walk in this joy and peace today, though we are still in the battle.
  - 3. 1John 1:8-10 ESV 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
  - 4. If we understand our predicament, we must also understand the solution:
    - a) We sin because we are sinners by nature
    - b) We have a solution in Christ alone
    - c) So, HOW DO WE OVERCOME SIN?
      - (1) By the cross
      - (2) By the blood
      - (3) By the resurrection
      - (4) By the relationship
      - (5) By the Spirit alive in us
      - (6) By GRACE through FAITH!
  - 5. If you are:
    - a) Uncomfortable because of the challenge from scripture
    - b) Angry because your lifestyle has been called SIN
    - c) Broken by past failures
    - d) In Bondage right now...
    - e) COME TO JESUS! TODAY! NOW!
  - 6. The Savior of the World can save you today!
- IV. Close