

Ephesians Chapter 5
Week 3, v. 4-5

Last week we looked at verses 2-4. **What did we learn from Eph 5:2?**

We were warned to stay completely away from sexual sin, material sin and verbal sin in verses 3-4.

According to the end of verse 4, what *is* fitting to our behavior?

Eph 5:4 and [there must be no] filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, *but rather giving of thanks.*

Thanks <eucharistia> gratitude; actively, grateful language (to God, as an act of worship):--thankfulness, (giving of) thanks(-giving).

Prayer and praise offered to God is an acceptable behavior for a Christian.

Col 3:15-17 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms [and] hymns [and] spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, [do] all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

What things can we be thankful to God for?

Ps 40:1-2 (For the choir director. A Psalm of David.) I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. (saving us from destruction)

1Th 5:18 **in everything give thanks;** for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. (everything)

1Th 1:2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention [of you] in our prayers; (others)

Ps 97:12 Be glad in the LORD, you righteous ones; And give thanks to His holy name. (His holiness)

Ps 106:1 Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; For His lovingkindness is everlasting. (His goodness, His lovingkindness)

2Co 9:15 **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!** (salvation)

Re 11:17 saying, "We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great power and hast begun to reign. (His power)

1Th 2:13 And for this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received from us the word of God's message, you accepted [it] not [as] the word of men, but [for] what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. (the salvation of others, His work in others' lives)

Ro 7:24-25 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin. (freedom from the control of sin)

1Co 15:57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (victory through Him)

Da 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter. (His wisdom)

Ro 6:17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, (a changed heart)

2Th 1:3 We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brethren, as is [only] fitting, because your faith is greatly enlarged, and the love of each one of you toward one another grows [ever] greater; (the love of others)

1Co 1:4 I thank my God always concerning you, for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, (His grace)

Review Ephesians 5:2-4:

- We are to
- 1) imitate Christ in our love for others, sacrificially giving up of ourselves;
 - 2) be holy, not giving sin even an opportunity to be associated with our lives;
 - 3) live our lives in thankfulness to God through our words and deeds.

Eph 5:5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

What is the warning in Eph 5:5? Anyone whose life is characterized by the sins in Eph 5:3-4 is not a child of God and will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Who or what are you living for? The world we live in now and all it has to offer us here on the earth or the life we have in Christ and all His eternal blessings for eternity?

Mt 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will hold to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

1Co 6:9-10 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor [the] covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Ga 5:19-21 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul mentions these sins because they were common among the Gentiles.

How many of these things listed above do we see around us today? The Bible says these things are sin. What does society lead us to believe about these behaviors?

How easy is it for us to “accept” sin as part of “normal” life? How do these sins creep in to a Christian’s life? How should we react when we are tempted?

1Co 6:18 **Flee** immorality. Every [other] sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

1Co 10:14 Therefore, my beloved, **flee** from idolatry.

1Ti 6:10-11 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith, and pierced themselves with many a pang. But **flee** from these things, you man of God; and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance [and] gentleness.

2Ti 2:22 Now **flee** from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love [and] peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Flee <pheugo> means to literally run away, to shun, to escape quickly

March 11, 2011, Japan - an earthquake and then a tsunami, widespread and devastating destruction. Have you ever been in an earthquake? A fire? In close proximity to something that could harm you physically? What is our response to these things? Why?

Do you know someone with a severe food allergy? You will see them staying completely away from anything containing the item they are sensitive to. In fact, any food that is prepared *near* the product they are allergic to cannot be eaten. They have a healthy fear of the consequences if they are even slightly exposed to the offending substance. And, just in case they are caught off guard, they carry an epi pen - their immediate armor to ward off potential problems. This is called playing it safe, being wise, averting any possibility of danger. We should react the same way to sin.

Sin is dangerous, it can overtake us quickly if we leave the protective arms of God. Without God's strength, sin has the power to render us helpless and has the potential to hurt us. We should look upon sin with the same fear we do natural disasters. Sin is harmful. You've heard the saying, "Don't play with fire". Why - because it can easily become larger than us, out of control. Being in the presence of sin is dangerous because we are weak and easily deceived. We need to run, as fast as we can, from the presence of sin.

Verse 5 begins with these words: "for this you know with certainty". This is an absolute statement. There are no exceptions - *never* will such a person enter into the kingdom of God. This means we can take no liberties in practicing sin. There is no "wiggle" room for this behavior.

What does immorality or impurity look like in actions, words and thoughts? What does it mean to covet? In what ways can idolatry enter our lives? How easy is it to make someone or something else our god? Where do your affections lie? Where do we place our esteem, our hope, our trust?

Php 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is [their] appetite, and [whose] glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Three things we can learn from this verse:

- 1) Our lives absolutely cannot be characterized by sin if we are God's children.
- 2) Therefore, we need to be on guard against sin and flee quickly from sin,
- 3) because Heaven is pure and those who enter into the kingdom of God are pure.

A Christian is not sinless, but he does sin less - and less - and less! Warren Wiersbe

Application Questions Week 3, Eph 5:4-5

This week: Read Ephesians 5. Consider the questions below and use the "Apply It" bookmark and your journal notes to guide you. Ask God to show you His will for your personal application. You may want to record additional insights in your journal. We will use these questions as a quick review next week. Review **memory** verses **Eph 5:1-2** in the NAS version and if you are trying the memory challenge, add **Eph 5:15** this week.

-- Thankfulness is an acceptable form of worship and should characterize our behavior. Make a list of things you can be thankful for in your journal. Spend some time in prayer offering thanks to God for His grace and mercy.

-- According to Eph 5:2-4 we are to:

- 1) imitate Christ in our love for others, sacrificially giving up ourselves;
- 2) be holy, not giving sin an opportunity to be associated with our lives; and
- 3) live our lives in thankfulness to God through our words and deeds.

Take the time to prayerfully evaluate how are you doing in each of these three areas. **Where do you see weaknesses? What specific changes can you make with the help of the Holy Spirit?**

Read Matt 6:24. **What does this verse say about who or what controls you? What can you do when you are tempted to follow the things of the world?** Read 1 Cor 6:18; 1 Cor 10:14;
1 Tim 6:10-11; 2 Tim 2:22.

How quickly and strongly do you react to sin? Are you tolerant of "just a little bit" of sin in your life? Read Eph 5:5. What does this verse say about who will enter the kingdom of heaven? Read 1 Cor 9:27. Like Paul, what do we need to continuously be fighting against?