

**Title:** Live as Children of the Light

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:1-14

**Introduction:**

Illustration: Frog in the Kettle

- Frog jumps out of kettle filled with boiling water
- Frog will die if merely placed in cold water while water is turned up to boiling.
- *Application:* Do we continually compromise in increasing measure where the result is spiritual emptiness?

*Quote* (John Stott): We drift towards compromise and call it “tolerance”...We slouch into prayerlessness, think it is “freedom.”

**Context of Passage in Ephesians:**

First part: what the Gospel is

- Chapters 1-3

Second part: what it means to be a Christian

Ephesians 5:1-2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- Chapter 4-6: integration of our faith into our actions
- Why? We are called to reflect Jesus
- “Holy sweat” - we must put effort into fighting sin and reflecting holiness.

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Overview:** Live as Children of the Light (Ephesians 5: 3-14)

I. Exalt God, not idols (v. 3-6)

II. Exhibit fruit of the Spirit (v. 7-10)

III. Expose the darkness (v.11-14)

**I. EXALT GOD, NOT IDOLS (v.3-6)**

Ephesians 5:3-6

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

*God created love so we should love others.*

- Sin: distortion of love
  - Worldly Love = selfish desire meeting own needs.
    - The feeling you receive from someone else, subtly selfish (about how *you* feel and satisfying your needs and expectations)

- This kind of love leads to immorality

### **Verse 3**

#### Ephesians 5:3

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

#### *Sexual Immorality / Impurity*

- “sexual immorality” = *pornea* = any sexual indulgence outside of marriage
- ”impurity” = anything that is unclean or filthy (see Matthew 23 - used to describe dead hypocrisy of king’s bodies)
  - God created us as sexual beings and should only be fulfilled within boundaries of marriage (and between a man and a woman)

#### Proverbs 4:14

Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil.

#### *Solution: Exalt God*

- Remind yourself of the Gospel.
  - Temptations to sin are not who you are. They are not your identity.
- In Christ, take your sinful desires to the Lord. Ask for strength to not act on them.
  - Without power of the Spirit, I cannot stay pure. I need you, Lord, to stay pure and to not act on what I feel and act like doing.
- Analogy: You cannot prevent birds from flying around your head but you can prevent them from making a *nest* on your head.
  - Our thoughts and desires are affected by sin.
  - Just because we think or feel it, does not mean to fulfill it.
  - Our identity is not in fulfilling our temptations but in Christ.
- Greatest blessings is to *obey God*, not the world.

#### *Bad desires are fueled when we do not protect ourselves.*

- Are you really fighting sin if *not* protecting yourself against temptations in your weaknesses?
  - If lust is a weakness, do you have accountability partners, internet filters, limit scope of what is watched?

#### Matthew 5:29-30

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

- If thought life is unholy, are you taking intentional steps to limit what you watch and see in terms of on-line content, shows, movies, etc.

#### Romans 12:2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- If dress, ask whether you are modestly dressed so not be a stumbling block to others. Men are more prone to visual temptations to lust.

## *Covetousness*

- Covetousness = greed
  - wanting things you don't have;
  - wanting things you shouldn't be having
  - wanting things in the way you shouldn't be doing.

### *Apply to who? Saints*

*"must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints."*

- Saints = all Christians sanctified by Christ through faith in Him.

### Ephesians 2:19

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

### **Verse 4**

#### Ephesians 5:4

Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

- "filthiness" = dirty speech
- "foolish talk" = one who makes light of high standards or behavior.
  - foolish = moron, fool, stupid
  - one who tears down anything of true worth.
- "crude joking" = turning anything said into something negatively suggestive/sexual twist/vulgar

### *Solution to Impurity: Thanksgiving*

*"but instead let there be thanksgiving."*

- Thanksgiving = worship of God
  - Appreciating who God is, who you are in Christ, and what He has already done for you.
- How can address addictions:
  - Go through Bible and research what is said about "temple worship" and "idols"
  - You are created as worshipful beings (human beings that worship something)
  - You are created to worship God and long for God
    - Sin = substitute "worship of God" with "worship of self."
    - Sin's Misperception: I will go my way to experience fullness of my desires so as to experience a sense of "happiness"
    - Sin's Reality = You are bowing to sin as an idol. Happiness is a mere illusion and instead needing more and more with no satisfaction

### Isaiah 44:9-10

All who fashion idols are nothing, and the things they delight in do not profit. Their witnesses neither see nor know, that they may be put to shame. Who fashions a god or casts an idol that is profitable for nothing?

### **Solution:**

- Be repentful
  - acknowledge wrong

### 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- Turn back to Christ.
  - Be thankful for the freedom we have in Christ

#### John 14:15-16

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

- Be thankful for the tools we have in Christ.
  - And use those tools!

#### Ephesians 6:11

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

#### ***Verses 5 and 6***

#### Ephesians 5:5-6

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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

- God is the ultimate Judge. Judgment will come to all

#### Hebrews 9:27

And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

- The way you act and dress reflects the kind of god you serve.
  - Do you act and dress that reflects the one, true God?
  - Or instead a small mirage of God that you have reduced that you manage to your preferences.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:12-13

Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

- You need to fear God more than anything else.
  - God sees all things!

#### Job 31:1-4

“I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a virgin? What would be my portion from God above and my heritage from the Almighty on high? Is not calamity for the unrighteous, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? *Does not he see my ways and number all my steps?*

- True, genuine blessings come through holiness, obedience to God.

#### Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and *to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy*, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.