

I. Imitate - Eph. 5:1-2

1. Follow God's example (**verse 1**)
 - continuous action
 - imitate God's action
 - imitate Him like children
2. How we are to follow Him - by walking in love (**verse 2**)
 - A. In the same way Christ loved us we are to love others
 - B. How did He love
 - 1) as a fragrant offering - the smell of the offerings on the altar
 - 2) as a sacrifice to God

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Like a sacrifice - give yourself in love
 - like Jesus did
2. The analogy of it "smelling" good is a great one
3. This is a pretty high "example" - that of God Himself - isn't that a bit high?
4. God is love - we ought to love - the logic is perfect
 - but, what about when people do not behave lovingly?

II. Isolate - Eph. 5:3-7

1. These things should not be among God's people (**verse 3**)
 - note, not even a "hint"
 - sexual immorality, impurity, greed
2. These things are improper
 - Rea -possibly might say "inappropriate"
 - Rea -using the analogy from above, these things are illogical
 - Rea -Paul uses ideas and images that are plain for everyone to see
3. Nor should there be foolish talk (**verses 4-5**)
 - nor obscenity
 - Rea -filthy talk is best - just like the KJV
 - I like the NIV here - "coarse" talk.
 - Rea -don't be a "potty mouth" - don't talk like middle school kids
4. Coarse joking
 - Rea -bathroom humor?
 - Rea -innuendos and rude puns
 - vulgar speech
5. Rather than vulgarity - out of our mouths should come thanksgiving
6. A list of persons who will not make it to heaven follows (verse 5)
 - the immoral
 - the impure
 - the greedy
 - the idolater
- Rea 7. At seminary I was taught not to make "sin lists" because you're always leaving someone out - sound wise, but here Paul makes a sin list

Rea -correction, he does not make a sin list - he goes one step further, he makes a list of those who are not headed for heaven. Contrast that to the television take on heaven... everyone is going.

8. Next he talks about those who will receive the wrath of God (**verses 6-7**)

A. Don't let folk deceive you

B. The wrath of God is coming on these folks - the disobedient

Rea 9. Three unpopular ideas:

A. That there will be judgment - wrath

B. That some will NOT go to heaven

C. That these folk who live this way are living in disobedience

10. Don't partner with these people

-not association with the lost

-don't "partner up"

Rea -you cannot attend some parties and come away untainted

Rea -you cannot watch some types of television and it not affect you

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. What about the "Walking Dead?" - do you think that affects our thinking?

2. Immorality is our culture, so you can't go along with the culture and go to heaven?

3. At what point are we friends, and at what do we actually "partner" with people?

III. Illuminate - Eph. 5:8-14

1. You were once darkness (**verses 8-10**)

Rea -so these folk are not going to heaven and are (in fact) darkness

-now you are light

Rea -two analogies - dark and light - there is no gray here - interesting

2. You are light

Rea -...in the Lord you are light

3. So... live like light

Rea -that might mean you must lose some friends, and some activities, and some television programs

4. The fruit of light

Rea -great analogy

He names the "fruit of light"

A. Goodness

B. Righteousness

C. Truth

Rea *I am thankful that Paul is very concrete in his writing - a clear lighthouse of ethical morals

Rea *"Truth" - I am the way, the truth and the life - John 14:6

5. Find out what pleases God

Rea A. Implies there is some doubt, and if we are honest, there is often a bit of doubt

B. Find out is like testing and proving gold or other fine metals

C. Compare Romans 12:2 - test or approve what is right and the will of the Lord

6. Have nothing to do with these deeds of darkness (**verses 11-14**)

A. Fruitless deeds of darkness, and fruitful deeds of light

Rea B. Once again, quite the contrast

- Rea C. Expose these deeds
- would that include a preacher calling sin, sin?
 - rebuke or correct
 - these things are shameful
- Rea D. It is shameful even to talk of the things that these people do
- immoral lifestyles are not only spoken of, but gloried in, on the media
7. To carry out the analogy
- light exposes things and made visible
8. We are to wake up and allow Christ to shine on you
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. How are we to “expose” the works of darkness?
 2. Are things black and white for you? - or they a foggy shade of gray?
 3. If a pastor rebukes the sins of our dark world, how long will he last in a local church?
 - if a pastor rebukes the sins of our world, doesn't that also mean that he rebukes the sins of the local church? - will you stand with your pastor in this, or will you simply remain silent? If you remain silent you are NOT supportive of your pastor.

Greg Pouncey - SS Lesson for 11-3-19