

STUDY 9 – EPHESIANS 5:1-21

1. Summarize this passage in several points, highlighting the main themes.

Paul ended the previous chapter (section) with 5:1-2, emphasizing self-sacrificial love, and now turns to self-indulgent sensuality, a vice list dominated by sexual sins. Believers are not to practice, nor even talk about these things, because setting your mind on them, and talking about them, creates an atmosphere in which they are tolerated or even promoted. Motive: it's not fitting for saints. Instead - thanksgiving/graciousness is promoted - a recognition of God's generosity. Thanksgiving is an essential aspect of the faith that acknowledges God as the ultimate source of all that is, the creator, sustainer, and redeemer of life.

And why: v.5 "For you may be sure of this" "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." (Eph. 5:5 ESV) https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESV#Eph._5:5, 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." It is a dire warning - people who practice these things have displaced the creator, with creation itself, in its worst form - idolatry - the unrestrained sexual greed is a form of idolatry.

Paul says, don't partner with darkness - this is what is bringing wrath to come - be sons and daughters of the light. (Spiritual Warfare). v.15-21 - Totally the opposite Spirit of the world.

In Chapter 5 Paul moves on to give reasons to help motivate his readers to live as those who belong to God's new society.

2. What further motivation does Paul give for the new life that God calls us to in verses 1-3?

God's children should imitate him (like our children - modelling)
Live a life of love - looks like Christ (imitate Christ) - how, self-sacrifice
Reminds of BCP - and here we offer and during communion.
What is proper/fitting/right for saints - those made holy by God

3. What further motivations do we see in v. 5-7? Why should v.5 'not be understood as teaching that even a single immoral thought, word or deed is enough to disqualify us from heaven'? (Stott)

Idolaters do not make it into the KOG - v.5
Wrath is coming/judgment - v.6
Don't be partnered - literally to be sharing or in relationship with darkness.

This is about lifestyle - throwing your lot in with the darkness - living a life apart from God - practical atheism

4. Paul writes in v.6 that the Ephesians should not be deceived about sexual immorality. In what ways is our society deceived when it comes to sex?

Every way. Gender, homosexuality, marriage/divorce, promoting sexual sin, objectification and the list goes on..

5. What does Paul's use of the imagery of light and darkness (v. 8-14) teach us about living as Christians? How is it a motivation?

He literally says in verse 8 YOU WERE DARKNESS - you were part of the problem, that is bringing wrath, and keeping people out of the KOG to come. NOW WE ARE LIGHT - you literally are of light, light - so you live in accordance with your new nature. In the process, you begin to be bearers of truth in the dark world, bear fruit in the dark world, and even ACTIVELY EXPOSE IT. This can't be done if you are compromised.

6. What characterizes those who are wise? (v.15-20)

Using your time well, not making foolish decisions, but ones in line with the Lord's will, not drunk, but filled with the Spirit, (Specifically convivial - frat parties); Our talk to one another is Christian; gratefulness, thankfulness to God seasoning it all, and submitting to one another.

7. What do you think Paul means in verse 16?

Last Days - End times - eschatological orientation. The end is near.
2Tim. 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.

So do good in the midst of evil (satanically controlled world - which they were once a part of)

8. Paul lists four results of being filled with the Spirit in v.18-21. What are they?

- Spirit filled v.18
- A Christian attitude to one another in the church v.19
- Thankfulness v.20
- Submission out of reverence for Christ v.21

9. In a sentence or two, what would you say is the main point of this passage?