

Title: It is Clean Up Time!

Text: Ephesians 5:3-5

Take your Bibles and turn with me to the book of Ephesians. The book of Ephesians chapter 5 beginning with Vs 1.....

(Read 5:1-5)

Prayer

In Ephesians chapter 5 verse 1 we are told to be imitators of God. And we are told to "walk in love." That is talking about living the christian life. And it sounds great. But, what will our life be <sup>Like</sup> ~~life~~ if we are walking in love and imitating God? What things will not be found in a christians lifestyle, if he is truly born again, if he is under the control of the Holy Spirit? What things will not be part of his life?

We find the answer to those questions in verses 3 to 5...

how do you walk in love? First, by reflecting Jesus christ in our life.

(2) *First of all, if you are living under the control of the Holy Spirit you will*  
~~Secondly, you cannot walk in love until you~~ resist immoral desires and practices. There is one great problem that is happening within the christian world today that bothers all good ~~Bible teachers~~ *Church members* and students. And that is the ~~false~~ idea of believing that you can be a committed, evangelical, spirit filled christian, and at the same time have immoral conducts in your life.

I don't know where we are getting this from. And I don't know what kind of false teaching that is telling this to God's people. But, that is not what the Bible says.....

Notice, please, what Paul says here in Ephesians 5.

Vs 3 says, "Do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you," ~~as is proper among saints.~~

I would like you to notice the extend of this residence. You say, that you are going to resist immoral desires. How far should you go? According to God word, "Let it not be named among you."

And I believe that is very clear. Immoral practices of unbelievers is not to be a habit of christians. It is not to be in our lives. We are to resist immorality.

This word "immorality" by the way is our word porongraphic.. It is a very serious matter. It is used some 56 times in the N.T. It is translated: "immorality"... "fornication".... It refers to all kinds of sexual immorality. "Adultary" is a kind of type of immorality. Homosexuality is a type of immorality. Immorality is a broad term.

*mit* The word "impurity" is used 41 times in the N.T. And in every case that I am aware of, it is connected with a list of ~~sin~~ *sins that are* sexual in nature. It is simply the word "uncleanness". A keeping of dirt in your life and the refusal to get it out.

And this should remaind us of what the Bible says, "whoever confesses his sin, God will honor and cleanse you.

But if you hide that<sup>sin</sup> you contain that<sup>sin</sup> you keep that sin, and you fail to deal with it, God describes you as being unclean. You are dirty inside and need to be washed.

In other words there is a tendency among all of us because of our sin nature, not to confess, not to forsake, not to deal with<sup>sin</sup> And this is described as uncleanliness within us.

And there is only one clear cut cleansing <sup>that I know of.</sup> And that is confession and obedience to the Word of God. And doing what the Word of God says.

~~And~~ Then Paul uses the word "greed"... I think that when he used that word some of you thought "money". But, that is not what he is talking about.

*and* The word "greed" is listed with all these sexual sins in the N.T. It is used some 20 times and it means "the desire to have more than what God in ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> word allows you to have." *The demons have moved me and me*

*and* So, that greed as it relates to sex is wanting some experience that God says you ought not to have. And He knows why.

*There's* He says that this is in our hearts. Matthew 15. He named <sup>a whole list of sins</sup> ~~all of these~~ and said that they come out off your heart. We all have <sup>the heart</sup> the problem. The question is: How are we dealing with it. How are we controlling the problem. And God says here, "Don't let it be found once in your midst. Not in practice nor in discussion." Very important. *If we are to live the Christian life. If we are to be a witness to the lost.*

And the explanation behind this, the reason we should resist, is stated there in the last part of Vs 3.. "as is proper among the saints."

What is proper?.....I would like you to turn, please, to 1 Timothy chapter 2 verse ~~10~~ <sup>10</sup>.....Just to notice the meaning of the word "proper." Sometimes when you think of something that is "proper" you think of social edict. Is he dressing properly. Is he walking properly, etc.

There may be something to this because 1 Timothy uses this word in Vs 10. In talking about women adorning themselves, it says in Vs 9, "with proper clothing", "modestly". The word means "arranged". Arranged well. "and discreetly", not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments."

In other words, don't make the emphases on the externals, but "rather by means ~~of good~~ <sup>of good</sup> works, as befits women making a claim to godliness."

The word "befits" is the same word "proper" in Ephesians 5:3. A woman who claims to be <sup>(Christian)</sup> godly should reflect that in the way she dresses according to this text. "Befits"...it is proper to what she really believes in side of her heart. Very interesting.

But the controlling factor always is what the person feels in the heart. Not how they look on the outside.

The same garment on one woman can appear to be sweet and lovely and reflecting godly attributes. And on anyother woman can reflect sin and immorality. No garment has ever been or ever will be sexy or wrong. It is an individual and the use of that garment. The garmant is amoral. But how we use it is very important. How it fits the body is very important.

So, ~~when~~ <sup>when</sup> we come to the whole issue of immorality and impurity and greed, and <sup>we</sup> ~~saying~~ <sup>we</sup> it is not proper, <sup>we</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>it</sup> doesn't fit the believer. It doesn't belong in your life. And when ~~that~~ <sup>that</sup> happens, it is difficult for you to share christ ~~for one thing~~ <sup>why? Because</sup>. That kind of style is not fitting the believer. As well as the fact that it would be hard for you to argue that you are growing in the Lord and you are spirit filled. Listen, it isn't right. And it doesn't belong in the believers life.

Back to Ephesians 5, again.....

How can we walk in love?..... <sup>How can we be a spirit filled Believer</sup> Well, ~~by reflecting God's love in our~~ <sup>How can we be imitator of God</sup> ~~life.~~ <sup>By resisting immoral practices: Fornacity, impurity, greed</sup>

(3) <sup>secondly</sup> ~~And~~ <sup>third</sup> Vs 4, by refusing to use bad language. I don't know what ticks you off...I don't know what makes you mad....But that is no excuse for using bad language. Notice what God says in Vs 4..."There must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks."

Let me just ask the question: What is bad language?

Well, God gives you three words... <sup>to describe bad language</sup>

(1) Number one, the word "filthiness" is used 24 times in its various forms. The particular form that is used here only appears here.

<sup>and</sup> But, I want you to turn over to Colossians 3 to just see some additional forms of the word in order to get an adea of what he is talking about.

*Dirty words, taking the Gods name in vain,*

"FILTHINESS"...The first part of this word "filthiness" has the common word for "shame" in it. Or, disgrace. Any words that are shame from God's viewpoint. They would embarrass a person who is living for the Lord. Any words that embarrass people because of their commitment to Christ and His Word should not be found among the Christians. Any words that bring shame. *Now,* In Colossians 3:8 we read "But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, (and watch this)..abusive speech from your mouth"

The word "abusive" is our same word found in Ephesians 5:4. Shamed, disgraceful, abusive speech, that is associated with anger, wrath, and malice and slander.

Look back at Ephesians chapter 5 verse 12 where we find another form of the word...We read "it is disgraceful"....That is the same word from which we get "filthiness". "It is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret."

Again that would go along with what he said in Vs 3, the immoral practice of unbelievers....Hay, you can name the sin. But getting into a discussion of how it happened and all the details. No way should that be in a believers vocabulary or life style. Get it out of your life. All filthiness. *DIRTY TALK* Get it out of your life.

Then he says "silly talk" in Vs 4. When I think of "silly talk" I sometimes think of young children and the things they say. But that is not the point here. ~~THE~~ A literal translation from the Greek would be "foolish word". Or, "the word of a fool."

Paul, referred to that in his letters to Titus and Timothy talking about the foolish type of talking that leads to controversy. That ~~stress~~ *stress* people up. That has no positive point at all to it. It just gets people into arguments and debates. And that is what Paul means here by "silly talk".

And the point is: *you are not living the Christian life* ~~you cannot walk in love~~ by using this kind of language. If everything you say always leads to an argument, and you are setting people up for a fight, (husbands and wives do that a lot) And God say, "Don't have it in your life. Get rid of it."

Any <sup>word</sup> ~~talk~~ that does not build and encourage other people should be taken out of our vocabulary and out of our life. I don't care how innocent or joking you might have been by saying "Oh, I was just kidding."

Proverbs warns about people like that. When a ~~to~~ called remark of a friend which tears you down instead of building you up, at that point you ought to forgive, but you also have a note from the book of proverbs that there is something wrong with your friendship. It is not where God wants it to be. I think we need to get this out of our lives. Don't talk foolishly. Any thing that causes strife and arguments and does not build people up, but tears them down, should be taken out of our lives.

(3 ) The third word is "coarse jesting"...Some people say "that is sarcasm"  
No it isn't!  
But what is coarse jesting? The word "jesting" means "to turn well"...

And in the ancient Greek times when a man did that, he was often manipulating by means of vocabulary. Some times a double meaning..Other times simply tricking or to trap someone.

It is the idea of turning remarks around to mean something else.

God says, Vs 4 "This is not fitting." In other words, the why?...as to why we should avoid bad language, is that it is not fitting to the believer.

You will find the same statement in Colossians 3:18 as to why wives should submit to their husbands. Why? because it is fitting in the Lord.

You find the same statment in Philemon Vs 8 where Paul talks about something being right or proper. It is fitting.

What I am saying here, is that bad lanuage is not right, ever, in God's view.

OK  
Well, what should we do? How should we talk with one another? The Bble is very clear. Vs 4 says .."with giving of thanks."

If only we would respond this way, to people....AND NOTICE THE STRONG contrast here. In contrast to bad language...filthiness, silly ~~talk~~ <sup>TALK</sup> and coarse jesting....He says: BUT rather give thanks.

Constantly giving thanks... Don't you love to be around people like that? Just always praising and thanking the lord...

They are thankful for every thing and everyone. Instead of tearing people down, they are building them up. They are encouraging them. Thanking God for them.

<sup>OK</sup> Well, how do we live the christian life?....~~By reflecting God's love~~

By resisting immoral desires and practices. And by refusing to use bad language.

( ) But there is one other thing. By recognizing the consequences of sin.

Folks listen, in the final analysis, there is only one thing that will control the old sin nature.

You say, "Well, that is the Holy Spirit of God!"....True....But behind that there is something else. *There needs to be a conviction about something*

The Bible teaches over and over, especially in Proverbs, the fear of the lord. If you are controlled by the Holy Spirit, the fear of the Lord is a controlling factor in your life.

What do we have today? If it feels good, then do it..right? As long as it hurts no one, who cares?.....So, let's do it.....I mean, what harm is there. Everyone is doing it.....(That is a lie, because everyone isn't)..

And we have all accepted the mood, the thinking, the philosophy of the world being communicated to us constantly.

WHAT DOES GOD MEAN IN VS 5?....."For this you know with certainty".... Paul is saying that there is no question about this at all.....

"that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."

What he is saying is that this involves a habit of life. Not just a momentary act....Listen, we are all sinners. All of these sins <sup>heart</sup> are in our <sup>heart</sup> by way of desire. God has already taught us that. But people have begin to think that if you commit sin ~~and~~ in this area, all you need to do is ask God to forgive you and it is clean. Then if you commit it again and ask God to forgive you, it is clean. Commit it again, and ask God to forgive you and it is clean.....

Listen, if all those things total up to be a pattern and a habit <sup>list</sup> God is saying, you have no part in the kingdom of Christ. You don't belong to God.

You are not saved.....<sup>oh</sup> A christian will slip and fall, <sup>True</sup> I understand that.  
~~Every~~ But, a <sup>Person who says He is a believer and</sup> ~~believer who~~ continues in sin without repentance, God says  
is not a believer. No matter who says so.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. And we  
are playing games with a holy and righteous God who one day is going to  
inflict his wrath on people. And whether we like it or not, He who loves  
us, also, dose not over look sin, or, over look life styles that are not  
pleasing to the Lord.

Christians ask me this all the time. Hay, I have a friend who calls  
himslef a christian and he continues in immorality. Is he saved?....

Friends, listen, point blank statement: Any one who continues in sin  
without repentence over a period of time, is not a christian. I don't care  
if they said so in the past and they signed there name on the dotted line..  
God says they are not.

Read I John...."Anyone who continues as a habit of life in sin is not  
born of God."....Period.....

That is why it is so dangerous for the christian to think that he can sin.  
You say, "Well, I am born again. And I can continue in this sin and just  
ask God to forgive me when the time is right."

A christian who is really born again, I am telling you, he will be  
broken up inside when he sins.

One of the evidences that you are a believer, is the ~~the~~ misery and the  
terrible attitude you have towards yourself and what you have done in your  
sin. You are miserable in your sin. That is one of the evidences that you  
are a believer.

When someone can keep going on without feeling the conviction of the Holy  
Spirit, without feeling the need for repentence, without wanting to get right  
with God, without wanting to be delievered from this habit, is not a believer.  
No mattaer what they say. Because God's word is very clear...

Turn over to Galations 5...Here it becomes very clear. Gal 5:19

(Read Gal 5:19-21)



How can anything be clearer/..... It not only involves a habit, in other words, but it eliminates a hope of eternal life. Anyone who continues in sin without repentance is heading for Hell. The Bible says so.

Turn, please, to I Corinthians 6....I Corinthians chapter 6. ....I believe this is one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible on this subject. Because it not only states it clearly, but it tells you the difference.

I Corinthians chapter 6, look at verses 9 ~~to~~ 10 (Read) (Vs 9-10)

If you stop there, you didn't go far enough. But right there. It is a true statement. When ever a sin is in the noun form, meaning that a person has become that, it is talking about a person who has a habit of life. It is saying that ~~one~~ committed ~~one~~ act of immorality. It is saying that he has become an immoral person.

But notice verse 11..."But such were some of you; but you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God."

The only thing that can make a difference is Jesus. The only thing.... Friends, I don't care what your sin is....and maybe it isn't ~~as~~ as bad as those listed here in this text, but no matter what the sin, Jesus is the only answer...And I know that Jesus can change your life..

Look around you. There are a lot of folks here, who have been changed. Excuse me folks....But.....

Understand. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God... And the <sup>only</sup> ~~big~~ difference between a christian and one who is not a believer, is that the christian has discovered the answer to his sin. And that answer is Jesus...AMEN....

You bring you sin to the cross of Jesus Christ, because the only forgiveness that you will ever have for anything that you have ever done in your life, is through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is no other way.

~~You just keep going on, trying to find another way.~~ There is only one good cleansing, and that is Jesus and what he did at the cross.

Let's close in prayer