

COUNTER CULTURAL

Otherworldly - Ephesians 5:1-12

October 22, 2017

I. BE WHAT YOU ARE (vs. 1-2)

- Since we are God's children we should imitate him.
- We follow the example of Christ as we walk in love and give ourselves to God completely as sacrifices (Romans 12:1-2).
- Our new identity in Christ is the basis for our obedience to God.

II. BE PURE (vs. 3-5)

- No sexual immorality (sexual activity outside of marriage).
- No sexual impurity (unclean or indecent sexual practices).
- No covetousness (lust).
- There should not even be a hint of these things.
- It is not just our actions but our attitude regarding these things...we should not find them funny or humorous and should never be flippant about the things that God finds detestable.
- Instead, we are to fill our hearts with thanksgiving.
- "It is the tendency of things gazed at to get through the eyes to the mind and heart." –C.H. Spurgeon (Job 31:1-4; Psalm 101:1-4; Psalm 119:33-40)

III. BE CAREFUL (vs. 6-12)

- There will be people who will try to dismiss the warnings of verse 5 and say that holiness does not matter...do not be partners with them.
- The warnings are real (1 John 2:3-6; Matthew 7:13-27).
- The admonition is to 'be light' and expose the evil (vs. 11).
- We pursue holiness not to earn God's affections, but because his affections are on us and we want to be found pure (1 John 3:3-4).

7 questions to ask in regards to entertainment:

1. Does this promote holiness? (2 Corinthians 7:1)
2. Would I watch this live and in person?
3. Would I let my wife or daughter play this role?
4. Does this hinder my ability to see God? (Matthew 5:8)
5. Am I free from doubt? (Romans 14:3)
6. Does this make light of things that God hates?
7. Does it flow from thanksgiving?

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ephesians 5:1-12

1. Why are we so quick to compromise when it comes to our entertainment? What are some of the rationalizations you have heard from people?
2. Why does Paul call covetousness 'idolatry'?
3. Why do you think Paul addresses not just the wicked actions, but also the words and attitudes about them?
4. Why does Paul tell us to replace our 'filthy' humor with thanksgiving? What is the point he is trying to make?
5. How do you determine what is appropriate for viewing in your own life?
6. Can you share an example of where God convicted you in one of these areas and you made the necessary changes? Where else do you need to improve?
7. Do you have any practical advice that you would offer to help others in this area?