

## Contra Mundum

The Empty Life

Ephesians 5:3-7

May 24, 2015

Let no one deceive you with empty words... -Ephesians 5:6

### I. PROPER AMONG SAINTS

- The imperative rests on the indicative. What we are determines how we act, and Scripture calls believers “saints” (Ps. 16:3; Mark 7:14-23; Acts 9:32; Rom. 1:7; Phil. 1:1; Jude 1:3; Rev. 14:12).
- Sexual immorality (*porneia*) refers to sexual intercourse outside of marriage and to other clandestine relationships of almost every description (Matt. 5:32; 15:19; 19:19; John 8:41; 1 Thess. 4:3).
- Immorality with our bodies, impurity in speech and thought, and covetousness (idolatry), along with flippant speech do not mark one as an imitator of God (Eph. 5:1; 1 Cor. 6:12-20).
- Replace covetousness and idolatry with thanksgiving. We don’t just take off the old, we put on the new (vs. 4; Eph. 4:22-24).

### II. A STARK WARNING

- People, some inside the church, will try to deceive us with empty words—telling us that immoral lives are godly and fulfilling (vs. 6; Acts 20:29-31; Eph. 4:14; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Jude 1:4).
- Those who remain unmoved by the Spirit of God and continue in immoral lifestyles remain under the wrath of God. This is not a good place to be (John 3:36; Rom. 2:5; Eph. 2:3; 1 Thess. 1:9-10).
- Actions don’t save us, but they do define us. Have we become partners with those who live immorally yet claim to be named as “saints” (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-18)?

**KNOW:** There are actions that point to the life of Christ within us, and actions that point to the fact that Christ is not a part, or at least not a serious part, of our lives. We are called to live upright lives as followers of Jesus.

**DO:** Do not be a partner with immoral living.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Mortification of Sin*, by John Owen

*Desiring God*, by John Piper

*Eros Defiled*, by John White

#### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

##### Please read Ephesians 5:3-7

1. What seems to be Paul’s main concern in our text for Sunday? What is he asking the Ephesians to do or become?
2. Why the “hang-up” with sexuality in Christianity? Is God against sex? Who created sex?
3. How does the church work toward accomplishing vs. 3? In other words, what can we do to see to it that immorality, impurity, and covetousness are not named among us?
4. How do we respond to a person who has had a tainted past who is now seeking reconciliation with Christ? Can you think of Biblical passages/concepts that would help? Anything from Ephesians?
5. What are some of the “empty words” that we are hearing from within and without the church in our culture today dealing with immorality?
6. What steps can be taken to help us fight the temptation to immorality, impurity and covetousness?