**Don’t Sin – Just Sing!**

**R. Giglio 3/5/21**

**Soul or the Spirit – Study of Ephesians**

**Eph 5:1-20 “**Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children **2** and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**3** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. **4** Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. **5** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

**6**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. **7**Therefore do not be partners with them.

**8**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light **9**(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)

**10**and find out what pleases the Lord. **11**Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. **12**It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

**13**But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.

**14**This is why it is said:

*“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead,*

*and Christ will shine on you.“*

**15**Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16**making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17**Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

**18**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, **19**speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, **20**always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There is a lot here in this text…

There is a lot of tension in these verses between;

Darkness vs. Light

Foolish talk vs. Thanksgiving

Immorality vs. God’s Kingdom

Unwise vs. wise

Drunkenness vs. being filled with the Spirit

But with all that going on, it *starts out* this way;

***“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children”***

***Let’s not ever forget that THIS is what it is all about.***

In a televised debate between Bill Nye (agnostic scientist) and Ken Ham (A Biblical Creation Scientist) regarding the subject of whether Creation belongs in the classroom, Ken Ham made a beautiful point at the end of his opening argument. Even as he put forth very compelling, scientific reasons for believing that the earth was created by Intelligent Design (by God),

He said that the saddest part is that if we deny children the truth about how God created he universe and all that it contains, we are **also** robbing them of a greater truth that **God loves them** and created them in His image, and that they are special and have a purpose here on earth and not just some random product of natural selection.

THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF THE STORY OF GOD.

He LOVES us and desires RELATIONSHIP with Him and each other.

\*It’s the MAIN reason that He created everything and gave us breath.

\*It’s the ONE thing that Jesus said was the most important;

***Matthew 22:37-40*** *“The greatest commandment is TO LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD….The Second is like it: “LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. On these two things rest all of the laws and the prophets.*

\*SIN is the ONE thing that separates us from relationship with God and others so therefore it is the ONE problem in the world.

\*SIN is the opposite of Love. And destroys relationships, either with God or others.

***SIMPLISTIC THEOLOGY 101:***There is 1 reason for existence – RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

There is 1 thing that is most important – LOVE

There is 1 problem in the world – **SIN**

*(which is why it is talked about in scripture)*

There are 3 sins in the world. ???

**1 John 2:16** - For everything in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--comes not from the Father but from the world.

THERE IS ONE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF SIN: **JESUS**

**1st John 3:5** “And you know that Jesus came to take away sin, and there is no sin in him.

**EPH 5:1-2**

[1](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-1.htm) Follow God’s example, therefore, as *dearly loved children*[2](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-2.htm) and *walk in the way of love*, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**These two verses tell us so much about God. He is at the very heart; A LOVING FATHER. Our place is as HIS CHILDREN. LOVE is the basis of our relationship with Him and our purpose is to WALK IN THE WAY OF LOVE. We are to imitate God by following Jesus’ example-who gave himself up for us as a sacrifice to God.**

**LOVE GOD – LOVE EACH OTHER – JUST LIKE JESUS DID.**

**Eph 5:3-4** “*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.*[*4*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-4.htm)*Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

**Remember Sin is the opposite of Love because it destroys relationships, let’s look at why:**

**Sexual Immorality –** Sexual Sins are taken very seriously in the Bible because just as sex was designed to be the consummation and the most intimate expression of love in the most sacred of relationships - Holy Matrimony,… when it is abused or misdirected it can do serious damage in our ability to love and be loved in Holy Matrimony or and have devastating effect on marriages, children, families and God.

**Impurity –** This is a matter of the soul. Your thoughts and feelings. We can have impure thoughts and motives without anyone knowing…except for God.

**Greed –** “I *want more for myself, regardless of what it means to everyone else*”… This often gets overlooked in the church and in some cases even applauded. It’s listed right up there with Sexual immorality because it is a serious sin. Our society of materialism and capitalism tends to “*breed Greed”.*

**Obscenity –** Many people say it’s no big deal to use colorful speech and four-letter words. There are much worse problems in the world. The word tells us however that this is “out of place” for the believer. Words matter!

**Foolish Talk / Coarse Joking –** This I admit, I really struggle with this. I have to watch myself, because I am always looking for something funny to say, or break the ice with a joking comment but often run the risk of offending someone or just losing my ability to speak seriously to others.

It can limit our relationships to just a *soul-level,* and prevent us from reaching a *spirit-level.*

**“**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Live as children of light**”**

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**Eph 5:5-7***For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*[*6*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-6.htm)*Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.*[*7*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-7.htm)*Therefore do not be partners with them.*

Does this mean that if I am immoral, impure or greedy in any way that I lose my salvation and go directly to hell?

No, Ephesians 2 tells us: 8For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9not by works, so that no one can boast.

**“*such a person — has [no] inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God***

**So what is the Kingdom of God?**

Jesus prayed, “…may your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

In heaven we will experience the fullness of the kingdom of God…

But God wants us to experience it on earth as well.

The kingdom of God is when “His will is done” on earth as it is in heaven.

Ephesus was experiencing “the Kingdom” already: (Acts 19)

* The Apostles laid hands on them they received the Holy Spirit:
* Paul Taught daily in the school of Tyrannus for 2 years and many were being saved,
* People being healed all over town, some simply by touching a handkerchief that Paul sent.
* False exorcists are attacked and “overpowered” and ran away,
* Magicians burning their black magic books and turning to Jesus.
* Christians were living in love and victory
* Jesus was being worshipped
* The Word of God was spreading through Asia Minor.

**THIS is the Kingdom of God!**

Paul warns however, if you hang on tightly to your immorality, impurity and greed…you won’t experience these things**.**

*HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO: Can you imagine discovering a village or island that is inhabited with the most wonderful Christian people that you ever met? They were completely devoted to God; Loving one another, worshiping the Lord, healing and miracles were taking place regularly, you ask them how come it’s so great here and they tell you “Oh, we are all fully committed to doing all we can and living in such a way that His Kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven”.*

*You say that’s great, I want to join you but I must admit I plan to bring my immorality, impurity and greed along with me because, that’s just who I am, it’s my orientation, it’s just part of me…*

*You would definitely feel out of place and out of step with the entire community, unless you were willing to give up the bondage of your sin.*

*This is not necessarily a salvation issue it is a Kingdom living issue.*

**Eph 5:8-15** [*“*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-8.htm)*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light*[*9*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-9.htm) *(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*[*10*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-10.htm) *and find out what pleases the Lord.*[*11*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-11.htm) *Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.*[*12*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-12.htm) *It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*[*13*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-13.htm) *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.*[*14*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-14.htm) *This is why it is said:*

*“Wake up, sleeper,*

*rise from the dead,*

*and Christ will shine on you.” (UNKNOWN)*

[*15*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-15.htm) *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,*[*16*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-16.htm) *making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*

The days are evil…

I often hear the outrage from Christians as they observe the reality of this in media.

* Do you see what is happening in Washington?
* Did you see what they now show on TV?
* Did you hear what they’re saying on the news?

Let’s remember, we live in *“the World”* and *the world* is very, “worldly”,

don’t be surprised that there is so much ungodliness in it.

*It’s like going to a cheap fast-food restaurant and saying “did you notice that all this food is all filled with processed byproducts, sodium, cholesterol and very few vitamins and nutrients… That’s right, It’s Fast-food, Not Whole Foods.* ***: )***

The days are evil! We live in a fallen world that seems to get darker each year. We can’t look to society, culture, media or government to tell us what is right or wrong, acceptable or not acceptable, we need to look at *God’s Word* and answer to Him alone.

We do not live in a time where we can blindly trust;

* what the government decided to teach our kids in school.
* OR what the FCC finds acceptable to be said or shown on TV,
* OR what politicians decide and redefine what is legal, fair, just or righteous.

**Eph 5:17-20***“Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*[*18*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-18.htm) *Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,*[*19*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-19.htm) *speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,*[*20*](http://biblehub.com/ephesians/5-20.htm) *always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

With all that this chapter tells us NOT to do,

we see here what it tells us *to do* and *do with all our heart*…

Worship God with all we’ve got.

* Don’t get drunk with wine,
* Be FILLED with the Spirit,
* Speak to one another with Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual songs
* Sing and Make Music from your heart to the Lord
* Always Giving Thanks.

***“Be drunk, just not with wine – be filled with the spirit!”***

Even if you’re not a singer, God wants you *to sing!*

***Psalm 105:1-4*** *“Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. SING to him, SING praise to him;*

***Psalm 149:1*** *“Praise the LORD. SING to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.*

**Remember I said we were made for relationship with God.**

**This is how we communicate our love and devotion to Him.**

**He is our Father, we are His children.**

**He wants to hear us sing.**

**Our reading in Eph 5, begins by telling us not to sin…**

**it ends telling us to sing.**

**Summary: “Don’t sin, just SING!” : )**

**Remember, *“as dearly loved children, walk in the way of love,”***