

# Discussion Questions

March 12, 2023

## Ephesians 5:3 - 14 Walk in the Light - Part 1

Read Ephesians 5:3-7

### 1. Ephesians 5:3

- What are the three areas Paul tells them to avoid?
- What is the connection between avoiding those and being "God's Holy People?"

### 2. Ephesians 5:4

- What is the connection between this list and the things mentioned in the previous verse?
- In what ways is "thanksgiving" an alternative to immoral and hurtful speech?

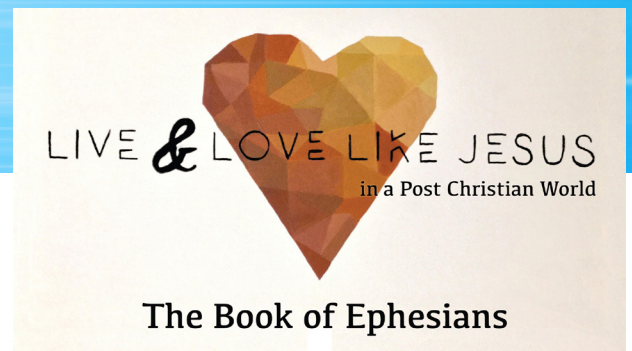
### 3. Ephesians 5:5

Paul repeats the same three categories as in verse 3, but now refers to people whose lives are characterized by those sins.

- How is greed connected to Idolatry? What is the significance of greed being labeled as idolatry? (consider how God addresses it in the Old Testament)
- In what ways is generosity an "antidote" for greed?
- Do Christians need to be afraid of losing their salvation if they struggle with one of these sins? Discuss why or why not.

### 4. There are three specific areas Paul addresses in this passage - sexual immoral acts, immoral speech, and greed.

- Discuss ways in which we as Christians downplay greed in comparison to sexual immorality.
- If appropriate, share an example of where you have noticed greed taking root in your life, and how it can be addressed.
- Take a few minutes to pray, asking the Holy Spirit to highlight an area from the passage that you need to take action in "putting off & putting on." Seek him for specific action steps to take this week.



**Ephesians 5:3-14 (NIV)**

*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. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 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. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them.*

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

**Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV)**

*Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 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.*

**Demosthenes - 4th Century BC**

*Mistresses we keep for the sake of pleasure, concubines for the daily care of our persons, but wives to bear us legitimate children and to be faithful guardians of our households.*

**Colossians 3:5 (NIV)**

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

**Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)**

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.*

**Ephesians 2:3-5 (NIV)**

*All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)**

*Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*