Sunday, September 26, 2021

Called to Pursue Purity

Ephesians 5:1-14

David H. McKinley

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[1]Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. [2]And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3]But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4]Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. [5]For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. [6]Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. [7]Therefore do not become partners with them; [8]for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [9](for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), [10]and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. [11]Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. [12]For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. [13]But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, [14]for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

—Ephesians 5:1-14

1. Imitate God's _____ Toward Us

"No performance is needed to merit God's grace, but full resemblance is expected after we have been touched by grace."

[4]… In love [5]He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will.

—Ephesians 1:4b-5

[1]And you were dead in the trespasses and sins [2]in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—[3]among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. —Ephesians 2:1-3

[1]I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. [2]Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. —Romans 12:1-2

Notes:

2. Separate from the _____ and _____ Around Us

"When Paul set this stress on moral purity, he was erecting a standard which the ordinary heathen had never dreamed of… there is nothing in all of history like the moral miracle which Christianity wrought." —William Barclay

[18]For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth… [21]For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened… [24]Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, [25]because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.
—Romans 1:18, 21, 24-25

"Christianity's most intolerable burdensome legacy, sex as sin."
—Dr. Michel Foucault

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. —1 Corinthians 6:18

"The greatest disservice that any man can do to a fellow man is to make him think lightly of sin. Any teaching which belittles the horror and the terror of sin is poisonous teaching. Paul besought his converts not to be led away and deceived with those empty words which took away the terror and the idea of sin." —William Barclay

3. Demonstrate the Visibility of God's _____ and _____ in You

- **Light Produces** _____
  Ephesians 5:11-12

- **Light Exposes** _____
  Ephesians 5:11-12

- **Light Brings** _____
  Ephesians 5:13-14

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