



“Followers of God”

The Church’s Conduct

Ephesians 5:1-5

Seeing yourself as a :

I. Sacrifice - “a sacrifice to God” (vs. 1-2)

Jesus’ sacrifice was to :

A. Imitate – “followers of God”

B. Illustrate – “given Himself for us an offering”

C. Ingratiate – “for a sweetsmelling savour”

II. Saint – “as becometh saints” (vs. 3-4)

Jesus’ standard is to be:

A. Pure – “let it not be once named”

B. Proper - “which are not convenient ”

C. Pleased - “rather giving of thanks”

III. Servant – “who is an idolater” (v. 5)

Jesus’ servants are :

A. Compassionate – “no whoremonger”

B. Consecrated – “unclean person”

C. Charitable – “covetous man”

Sentence Sermon:

“The Church is people who imitate Christ in their character, conversation and charity.”

Additional Verses

- ***I Peter 2:21***
- ***I Corinthians 11:1***
- ***Leviticus chapters 1-3***
- ***Matthew 5:48***
- ***Luke 6:36***
- ***II Corinthians 2:15-16***
- ***Philippians 4:18***
- ***I John 3:16***
- ***Colossians 3:5***

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why are children used so often in the New Testament as examples?
- 2. What instruction can believers receive from the example of the offerings in the Old Testament?
- 3. Does the end of verse 4 seem odd to anyone? Why do you suppose giving of thanks is mentioned?
- 4. What is a good definition of idolatry? Does it take place today?
- 5. Does this passage (v.5) teach that a person can lose their salvation because of wicked behavior?

INTRO:

Ephesians is written to the Church

Two words throughout = Saints and Children

Children are used to illustrate the :

Need for maturity / Danger out there

Way to learn to follow Christ

Exegesis:

V. 1

- Be ye therefore = Live like this ...because God has forgiven you (v. 32). You be like God...**Godliness is God likeness.**
- Followers of God = imitators of God = Godly
- As dear children = dear = “**beloved**” --- emphasizing the reality that we have received a status of children that are soaking up love from our heavenly Father.

V. 2

- And walk = children mimic their parents ...dress up...cooking...taking care of babies...fixing things with tools...driving cars and trucks
 - make it a part of your legacy and history that you are this way...what will be said at your funeral
- Walk in love = walk around “peripateo” in love ...habitual action

- As Christ = just as Christ ...the way He did it...how ...sacrificially
- Also hath loved us = God the Father and Christ His Son has loved Us
- Has given Himself for us = John 3:16 – The Father Gave His Son...but the Son gave Himself voluntarily.
- **An offering** = often from the fields and trees -- giving from what was possessed
 - **Sweet savor** offerings = pleasing to God:
 - **Burnt** offering = Jesus complete devotion to the Father
 - **Meal** offering = Jesus complete perfection of character
 - **Peace** offering = Jesus is the peacemaker between God and Man
- **And a sacrifice** = describing the offering of animals which were killed at the holy place and burned on the altar.
- To God = To the Father in payment and
- For a sweetsmelling savor = “an odor of fragrance” suggests an acceptable offering.

V. 3

- But = in contrast...not in line with the previous thought
- Fornication = “pornea” inappropriate sexual activity

- All uncleanness = filthiness...impurity “opposite of purity”
- Or covetousness = greediness ... what usually is at the root of inappropriate sexual behavior
- Let It not be once named = emphatic negation “no not even once” named = “not even to be mentioned by name...Should not have to deal with this sin.
- among you , as becometh saints = that which is fitting as someone in your position as a saint.

- Hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God = No home in heaven...not a believer

V. 4

- Neither filthiness = Shameful conduct - **Obscene**
- Nor foolish talking = shameful talk or foolish speech or sinful speech
- Nor jesting, which are not convenient = lit. “**to turn**” indicates puns or joking with deceptive speech that is not fitting or proper...could include **sexual innuendo**
- Giving of thanks = **the antidote to improper** speech is to fill your mouth with thanksgiving.

V. 5

- For this you know = you can bank on it
- No whoremonger = one who practices sexual immorality
- Unclean person = one who is unclean
- Covetous man = greedy
- Who is an idolater = one who serves an idol (cp. **Colossians 3:5 , immorality = idolatry**)