

# Wednesday Night BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 – First Baptist Church Buda  
Midweek Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

T H E B O O K O F

EPHESIANS

*How to live the Christian life*

**EPHESIANS: HOW TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE – PART 33**  
*Clean Up Your Act / Ephesians 5:3-6*

*“<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” – Ephesians 5:1-2 (NKJV)*

*“<sup>3</sup>But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup>neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup>For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” -Ephesians 5:3-6 (NKJV)*

## KEY BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR EPHESIANS

To gain a better understanding of the Book of Ephesians, consider the following background information:

1. **Authorship:** The Apostle Paul - Traditionally attributed to the Apostle Paul.
2. **Date of Writing:** A.D. 60-63 - Likely written around A.D. 60-63 during Paul's Roman imprisonment.
3. **Place of writing:** Rome – Paul wrote the book/letter of Ephesians from a Roman prison
4. **Audience:** Ephesian Christians at Ephesus and surrounding area Addressed to the Christian community in Ephesus, a major city in Asia Minor. Ephesians is considered a “circular letter” meant to be circulated to church in the area of Ephesus... possibly the same 7 churches

5. **Purpose: How to live the Christian life** To strengthen the faith of believers and address issues of unity and spiritual maturity.
6. **Themes: Grace, the church, and holy living** - Key themes include grace, the church as the body of Christ, and the importance of living a holy life.
7. **Structure: Ephesus is divided into two main sections** - Divided into two main sections: doctrinal teachings (chapters 1-3) and practical applications (chapters 4-6).
8. **Cultural Context: Ephesus was center of commerce and religion** - Ephesus was a center of commerce and religion, known for the Temple of Artemis.

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## QUOTE RESPONSE

*“The task of the church is to make the invisible Kingdom visible through faithful Christian living and witness-bearing.” -J.I. Packer*

- What is your initial reaction to this statement from J.I. Packer? What do you think He is saying?
- How do we as Christians make the invisible Kingdom visible through faithful Christian living?
- How do we as Christians make the invisible Kingdom visible through witness-bearing?
- What do this quote say about the importance of how we live our lives as Christians?

*“A true Christian, living an obedient life, is a constant rebuke to those who accept the moral standards of this world.” -Billy Graham*

- What is your initial reaction to this statement from Billy Graham? What do you think He is saying?
- What do you see as the “moral standards of this world” that Billy Graham may have in mind, and how are these different than the moral standards of a Christian?
- In what way is a true Christian, living a life of obedience, a “constant” rebuke to those who accept the moral standards of this world?
- What do this quote say about the importance of how we live our lives as Christians?

*“The ability to make judgments lies at the heart of Christian living. Unless we are able to judge doctrine, lifestyles, and entertainment, unless we are able to distinguish between outer appearances and inner character, we just might miss the purpose for which God placed us on this earth. We might end up accepting a stone of bread and a snake for a fish.” – Erwin W. Lutzer*

- What is your initial reaction to this statement from Erwin Lutzer? What do you think He is saying?
- What do you think he means by the statement, “the ability to make judgments lies at the heart of Christian living? In what way(s)?
- What does he mean by judging doctrine, lifestyles, and entertainment, and distinguishing between outer appearances and inner character? What does this have to do with our purpose as Christians here on this earth?
- What does this quote say about the importance of how we live our lives as Christians?

## *Why is it important how a Christian lives his or her life?*

### **10 Reasons Why It is Important How a Christian Lives Life:**

- (1) **To please God** - Scripture says that *“without faith it is impossible to please God”* (Hebrews 11:6). And the book of James teaches us that, if our faith is real, it will be lived out. That is, our faith will make a difference in our daily lives. Christians should live out their faith because it properly represents God to the world.
- (2) **To distinguish ourselves from those who aren’t Christians** - The false teachers of Paul’s day claimed to have faith, but they did not live it out. Paul wrote about them in Titus 1:16, *“They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. They are detestable, disobedient and unfit for doing anything good.”* If we claim to follow Jesus, but our actions don’t back it up, we’re not really following Jesus (see John 14:15).
- (3) **To bear witness of our faith** - In this modern world, it’s tempting to keep one’s faith private. If no one else knows what we believe, life can seem less complicated. When we don’t allow our faith to influence what we say and do, we’re free to live like the rest of the world. Our language, politics, and actions won’t offend unbelievers—or cause them to persecute us. And we can even use the church to network with people who can help us get more money, status, and security. But these are temporary gains.
- (4) **To produce lasting fruit** - By living out our Christian faith, our work can last for eternity. Jesus said in John 15:16, *“<sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain...”* Think of this... how does how we live our lives bear fruit that remains?
- (5) **To further the truth about God** – It says that what we believe about God is true and real and worth living for... even worth changing out we live daily. When we live out our

faith in Christ, we not only further the truth about God but also benefit ourselves and those around us.

- (6) **To produce a worry-less life** – We will still have worries but we will worry... less because we know that God is in control. When we live out our faith, we worry less. Anxiety over money, death, politics, and other things of this world is lessened. We learn to “pray about everything” (Philippians 4:6, NLT) and in everything give thanks. We have confidence that “[God] will never let the righteous be shaken” (Psalm 55:22).
- (7) **To benefit others** - Others benefit, too, when we live out our faith. A person living out his or her faith in Christ will love his neighbors and his enemies (Mark 12:31; Luke 6:27). He will care for those in need (Luke 14:12–14). He will pray for his leaders and work for a peaceful community (1 Timothy 2:1–2). He will stand for justice (Isaiah 1:17).
- (8) **To picture God’s forgiveness and grace** - Most importantly, the one who lives out his faith will teach the world how God wants to forgive their sins and have a relationship with Him (1 Peter 3:15).
- (9) **To let others see and glorify God** - When we live out our faith in Christ, we follow in Jesus’ steps and live as Jesus taught. Others will see our good works, done in Jesus’ name, and glorify our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16). Our witness will help the world discover the truth (Ephesians 4:25), and “the fruitless deeds of darkness” will be exposed (Ephesians 5:11–13).
- (10) **To give evidence of what we believe most deeply** - The truth is, we do live out our faith, no matter how hard we might try to hide it. Our actions and words are always rooted in what we believe most deeply. If we claim to know Jesus but don’t act like it, our deeds prove that we don’t believe He is Lord or following Him is important (see Titus 1:16). As James says, this type of dead faith is really no faith at all (James 2:26).

### Application Questions

1. **There are professing Christians that argue that the Bible permits committed, loving homosexual relationships, loving tolerance of LGBTQ ideologies, etc. How would you counter this with Scripture?**
2. **Some Christians justify allowing more questionable behaviors and practices in their life by saying, “I need to understand where our culture is at. Your response?”**
3. **Where is the balance between being in the world, but not of the world (John 17:15-16)?**
4. **How can we keep a check on ourselves so that we don’t cross the line?**
5. **Some argue that genuine Christians may fall into habitual immorality or greed and that the consequence is, they lose their rewards, not eternal life. How would you interact with this?**

The way that God designed our five senses so that they adjust to minimize harsh stimuli is amazing!

- **Your eyes** adjust to bright sunlight so that it doesn’t seem so bright or to a dark room so that it isn’t so dark.

- **Your ears** filter out certain noises so that you don't even think about them. If you live in Buda, on Cedar Street, you have train coming through at all hours of the night blasting their horn at three intersections. But you get so used to the noise that you don't even really hear it any more... or at least it doesn't bother you.
- **Your sense of smell** works the same way. When I was growing up my mom's parents, my grandparents both smoked... heavily. Of course back then it was much more acceptable to smoke... almost everyone smoked. But I was used to it. I was around it all the time and I didn't think anything about it. The smell didn't bother me at all. I was almost oblivious to it. I honestly couldn't smell anything, because I had grown used to the smell. To this day the smell of cigarette smoke doesn't bother me... it's almost nostalgic to me.
- The same thing happens with **your sense of taste**. Not many people like the taste of coffee at first. It's too bitter. But after you develop a taste for it, the bitter tastes good.
- And, **your sense of touch** develops calluses so that what at first felt rough no longer bothers you.

Our spiritual senses also work like our physical senses, but with a crucial difference. While it is to our advantage in most cases to adjust to harsh physical stimuli, it is to our disadvantage spiritually. When we first hear of some terrible sin, we shrink back in horror and disgust. But if we are exposed to this sin repeatedly, so that it becomes commonplace, we tend to accept it or at least shrug it off.

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) saw this when he wrote ("Essay on Man," in *Familiar Quotations*, by John Bartlett [Little, Brown, and Company], 13<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 317), "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien [appearance] As to be hated needs but to be seen; Yet seen too oft, familiar with her face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

The statistics we read today are alarming as well as very enlightening and convicting. Every poll taken today surveying the private lives of Christians seems to indicate that the practices of Christians (the places we go, the things we do, the movies we watch, the music we listen to, even our ethics and values) don't differ that much from non-Christians (the lost).

From the Barna Research group we read, "Jesus taught that Christians would be recognizable by their distinctive behavior – specifically, by the way they love others and how their lives reflect their spiritual values and beliefs (i.e., the "fruit" of their transformation). However, current research indicates that people's faith does not make as much of a difference as might be expected."

And from George Barna, based on the finding from his groups research and finds, he says this... just listen to this, "Many Christians today are hard-pressed to convert their beliefs into action. The ultimate aim of belief in Jesus is not simply to possess divergent theological ideas but to become a transformed person. These statistics highlight the fact that millions of

people who rely on Jesus Christ for their eternal destiny have problems translating their religious beliefs into action beyond Sunday mornings.”

Josh McDowell writes, “I have spent a significant amount of time studying trends in teen behavior and what I have discovered shocked me. The behavior of Christian young people was virtually identical to young people outside the church.” In other words, they looked, talked, acted, did the same things. What a sad but true statement? Our own experience and what we ourselves witness before our very eyes bears it out unfortunately if we would just be honest.

Charles Colson wrote in his book about the church and Christians called “The Body;” “Rather than offend... the church has gradually, almost imperceptibly slipped into accommodating the culture (the world). It begins with a small step, something almost unconscious...”

I believe he is telling us that too often, the truth be known and admitted, we look more like the world than we do Christians. We’ve accommodated... taken on the world and the world’s ways.

I fear that the American church is in grave danger of pitying or embracing the sexual immorality that has engulfed our nation... Christians and many churches today are openly embracing homosexuality and LGBTQ ideologies, performing homosexual marriages, ordaining and hiring practicing gay and lesbian, transgender ministers... where has this come from... a watering down of the Word of God (Progressive Churches have a low view of Scripture and a low view of God), a compromising of the truth of Scripture, a blurred conscience toward right and wrong (their conscience has become seared as the Bible says).

### ***WHAT IS PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY AND THE PROGRESSIVE CHURCH?***

What Is Progressive Christianity, Really? Progressive Christianity isn’t just a more “open-minded” version of the faith — it’s a total redefinition of it.

#### **At its core, progressive theology tends to:**

- **Reject the authority and inerrancy of the Bible**
- **Reinterpret sin through the lens of human experience**
- **Emphasize love and inclusion over holiness and repentance**
- **Downplay the exclusivity of Christ for salvation**
- **It often affirms the cultural moment over the eternal Word.**
- **In this view, truth is flexible.**
- **God’s commands are negotiable.**
- **And Jesus becomes more a moral teacher than a Savior and Lord who calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Luke 9:23).**

That's not Christianity. That's deception. Jesus warned about this kind of deception in Matthew 7:15: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves." Progressive Christianity often wears that sheep's clothing well. But it leaves people spiritually lost, thinking they're saved while embracing a gospel that has no power to save. It may also be the culprit behind why many Christians have become watered down in their own morals and behaviors, failing to actually live the Christian life as Scripture calls.

***The saints must not be immoral or greedy, but rather thankful, because the immoral and greedy will incur God's wrath.***

Listen to our passage again in Ephesians 5:3-6, "<sup>3</sup>But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup>neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. <sup>5</sup>For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."

Verse 3 begins with "but," drawing a contrast with the command to walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us. He wants to make it clear that the love to which Christ calls us stands in stark contrast with the lust of the pagan world.

The Greco-Roman world of that day, including the city of Ephesus, was noted for moral corruption. The temple of Artemis (one of the 7 wonders of the world) offered ritual prostitution as part of its "worship." Sexual promiscuity was commonplace. The Emperor Nero was openly homosexual and was known to have been sexually involved with his own mother. So it was imperative for the church to be distinct from this immoral culture that was facing God's judgment.

So that we all are perfectly clear, let me point out that being a moral person will not get you into heaven. Of course, none of us has been perfectly moral, because Jesus raised the standard to mental purity when He said that if we even look on a woman to lust, we have committed adultery with her in our hearts (Matt. 5:27-28). But even if you can claim always to have been faithful to your spouse or to be chaste as a single person, it will not qualify you for heaven.

As we saw in Ephesians 2:8-9, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*" So the task for the church is not to crusade to make our culture more moral, but rather to

give them/show them Jesus and get people saved. God's transforming our hearts is the basis for pleasing Him by a holy life. Paul makes three points...

### **3 Points in Ephesians 5:3-6:**

- (1) **The saints must not be immoral or greedy (Ephesians 5:3-4)**
- (2) **The alternative to immorality and greed is to give thanks (Ephesians 5:4a)**
- (3) **The immoral and greedy will not be in God's kingdom, but will incur His wrath (Ephesians 5:5-6)**

### **THE SAINTS MUST NOT BE IMMORAL OR GREEDY (Ephesians 5:3-4a)**

*"<sup>3</sup>But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; <sup>4</sup>neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting..." -Ephesians 5:3-4a (NKJV)*

Paul writes there in verse 3, *"But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints."* **"Saints"** is Paul's common word for believers/Christians and means, *"holy ones."*

#### **NOTE...**

- The Bible *never* uses the word to refer to a special class of believers who are a notch above the rest.
- It refers to the fact that as a believer, you are sanctified or set apart as holy unto the Lord.

Now, as a believer, you are to live as a saint...

### **Living as a "Saint" Reminds Us as Believers...**

#### **1. God's standard for moral purity is absolute, not relative, and thus is not debatable**

- We live in a day when even most professing Christians deny that God's moral standards are absolutely true and binding on all people in all cultures. As far back as 1991 (and I'm sure the percentages have not improved since then!)...

- Only **23% of "born again" or "evangelical" Christians expressed a strong belief in absolute truth** (from George Barna's *What Americans Believe*, cited by James Dobson in a newsletter, Dec., 1991).
- In our culture at large, **47% now approve of homosexuality**
- That breaks down into **83% of liberals approve of homosexuality** versus **23% of conservatives approve of homosexuality**.
- **Among liberals, 89% approve of sex between an unmarried man and woman**
- **33% of conservatives agree and approve of sex out side of marriage**
- **Having a baby out of wedlock is acceptable to 83% of liberals and 33% of conservatives** (*The Washington Times* [6/5/2007], p. A6).

But God's standards for moral purity are not up for popular vote! He designed the sexual relationship for a man and a woman in a lifelong committed marriage. When practiced within these boundaries, it is a good gift from God, not something dirty. He gave us His commandments for our good. When we violate His standards, it results in short term pleasure (that's why we're tempted to do it), but long term pain and problems. Keeping God's commandments is often difficult in the short term, but deeply fulfilling in the long term.

2. **God's standard includes moral purity in thought, speech, and behavior** - Jesus said that immoral behavior comes out of the heart (Mark 7:21-23), and so we must deal with it on the heart level. Paul uses six terms here to refer to sins that the saints must not practice...

### **6 Terms for Sins Saints Must Avoid:**

- (1) **Fornication** – (Sometimes translated as “immorality”) This is the Greek word *porneia*, which refers to any type of sexual immorality. It includes premarital sex, extramarital sex, incest, homosexuality, bestiality, and the use of pornography. Any sex outside of the lifelong commitment of marriage as defined in the Bible (one man for one woman for life) is not rooted in love, but in lust. Outside of marriage, sex devolves into using the other person for your own gratification. Let me make a note here... we must remember that premarital sex, extramarital sex, incest, pornography is just as much as sin as homosexuality
- (2) **Uncleanness** - This word means “dirty” or “impure,” and was used to refer to the pus around an infected wound. In the moral realm, it refers to that which contaminates others and is repulsive and disgusting. Paul used it in **Ephesians 4:19** to refer to the ungodly behavior of the Gentiles, who had **“given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.”**
- (3) **Covetousness** - As in Ephesians 4:19, Paul lists covetousness or greed right beside sexual sins and in Ephesians 5:5 he equates it with idolatry (cf. Col. 3:5). The covetous man has a lust for more, whether it is money, material possession, or sexual conquests. Covetousness is motivated by selfish pleasure apart from God. It is idolatry because it seeks to find pleasure in something other than God, while rejecting God's commandments. Sex outside of marriage is always based on greed, because its goal is to exploit the other person for your advantage, not to enrich him or her. Paul says (in Ephesians 5:3) that these three sins are **“not even [to] be named among you, as is proper among saints.”** He obviously does not mean that they should not be discussed, because he is discussing them here. The Bible also contains stories of sexual immorality, as well as a vivid fictional depiction of it (Proverbs 7). **Rather, he means that these sins should be unknown among Christians.** We should not be feeding our minds on these sins by watching movies or TV programs that depict them. We should not read juicy accounts of sexual sin in the press, books or literature. Certainly, we

should not view pornography in any form. As Paul says (Rom. 16:19b), **“but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.”**

- (4) **Filthiness** - This refers to any indecency, obscenity, or shameful thing. It comes from the same word root as “disgraceful” (in Ephesians 5:12).
- (5) **Foolish Talking** - This word comes from two words that mean, **“foolish speech.”** We get our word *moron* from the Greek word root. In the Bible, the fool is *not* someone who is *mentally* deficient, but rather someone who is *morally* deficient because he ignores God’s Word. In this context, Paul is referring to speech that disregards or makes light of God’s moral commandments.
- (6) **Coarse jesting** - The word literally means, **“to turn easily.”** It has the idea of someone who can make a quick comeback, using clever words with a double meaning. So he can turn something into a dirty joke or vulgar humor, as many stand-up comedians and TV sitcoms do. Christians should not joke about sex for the same reason that we should not joke about God—it is a sacred subject. The sexual relationship should be revered among God’s people, not degraded or made light of. Thus God’s standard is absolute and it includes moral purity in thought, speech, and behavior.

**3. God’s standard must be your standard as a saint** - Sexual purity is not an infrequent theme in Paul’s letters. He mentions purity or warns about immorality in...

- Romans (1, 13)
- 1 Corinthians (5, 6, 7, 10)
- 2 Corinthians (6, 7, 12)
- Galatians (5)
- Ephesians (4, 5)
- Colossians (3)
- 1 Thessalonians (4)
- 1 Timothy (1, 3, 4, 5)
- 2 Timothy (3)
- Titus (1, 2, 3)

Since all of these letters are addressed to professing Christians in the church, God intends that you as a Christian be reminded of and be on guard against the sexual temptation that tempts us all.

To be morally pure, you’ve got to commit yourself to God’s standard and fight to maintain it. To fight for purity, you must guard your thought life and restrict the kinds of media that you expose yourself to. You must be accountable in your use of the computer, phone, iPad, or device. Guys, you must make a covenant with your eyes (Job 31:1), so that you stop checking out every attractive girl who walks by. It is a battle and it won’t happen automatically. You must actively fight against it. Cut off your hand! Pluck out your eye if you need to (Matt. 5:27-30)!

#### 4. We must model and teach God's standard to our children –

- A survey revealed that **46%** of Michigan fifth-graders (that's children ages 10-11 years old) and **55%** of eighth-graders (age 14) had engaged in sex! The study showed that sex is far more common among both age groups than alcohol or drug use. The leader of the study speculated that the high rates of intercourse could likely be attributed to television exposure, social media, and present day technology (internet, computer, phones, lap tops and other electronic devices).
- As far back as 1988, Josh McDowell did a survey that showed that **43%** of 18-year-old church-attending youths had had sexual intercourse.
- When you broaden it to “acts of sexual intimacy,” the number went up to **65%** among church high school seniors.

If these statistics alarm you (and they should, especially if you're raising children or have grandchildren), you must model and teach your children the ways of the Lord. Don't assume that the church will do the job, although we want to back you up. It's your job, not just to tell your kids that sex outside of marriage is wrong, but also to explain the wholesomeness of sex as God designed it. You must have an open relationship where your kids can share their own struggles and temptations without fear of an angry tirade. You also must protect your family from harmful influences.

Paul's first point is clear: Christians must not be immoral or greedy.

#### **THE ALTERNATIVE TO IMMORALITY AND GREED IS TO GIVE THANKS (Ephesians 5:4)**

*“Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.” -Ephesians 5:4 (NKJV)*

You would think that Paul would say that we are to replace sexual impurity with purity. That is true, of course, and he will state that a little later in this chapter in Ephesians 5:9-11. But here, he says that the alternative to sexual immorality and greed is to “give thanks.” Why does he say that? What does thankfulness have to do with moral purity?

#### **WHAT DO YOU THINK? *What does thankfulness have to do with moral purity?***

- To be thankful, you must be in submission to God's sovereignty over every detail of your life
- If you're grumbling or complaining, you're really saying that you know what's best for you better than God does.
- If you're grumbling about being single or about being married to the “wrong” person, you are not just complaining about your circumstances, but really about God's goodness

and wisdom in these aspects of your life. The same goes for discontent in the financial area.

- Satan tempted Eve by getting her to doubt God's goodness in withholding the forbidden fruit from her. When she bit into Satan's lure that the fruit would really be good for her (contrary to what God had said), she yielded to sin. Satan will use the same ploy to tempt you to fulfill your sexual desires in disobedience to God.
- If you read Paul's account of the degradation of the human race in Romans 1:18-32, at the root of it was (in Romans 1:21), *"they did not honor Him as God or give thanks."*
- So by faith, you must bow before God's sovereignty over your circumstances and give Him thanks.
- If you're single and burning with sexual desire, pray for a mate (1 Cor. 7:1-9).
- If you're married, thank God for the mate that He has given you and work on your relationship.
- By the way, sexual satisfaction in marriage is very closely tied with relational intimacy. God designed it that way.
- So to guard yourself against the temptation of adultery, guard your relationship with your mate. Work at it constantly.
- Develop a thankful heart for all of God's blessings, including the sexual relationship in marriage.

## **THE IMMORAL AND GREEDY WILL NOT BE IN GOD'S KINGDOM, BUT WILL INCUR HIS WRATH (Ephesians 5:5-6)**

*"<sup>5</sup>For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience." -Ephesians 5:5-6 (NKJV)*

Paul makes two points here...

### **2 Point to Make in Ephesians 5:5-6:**

- (1) You know for certain that no immoral or greedy person will have an inheritance in God's kingdom (Ephesians 5:5) -** *"<sup>5</sup>For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God."* It only makes sense... there will not be immoral or greedy people (who are idolaters) in heaven. It wouldn't be heaven if they were there! While genuine Christians may fall into these sins, no genuine Christian can continue in such sins. As John states plainly in 1 John 3:7-8, *"Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil."*

(2) **Don't let anyone deceive you about such things, because the end result is God's wrath (Ephesians 5:6) -** *"<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience."* Paul knew that many, including many Christian leaders, would say, "You're under grace. God is a God of love who won't condemn you. He understands your weaknesses." By such enticing words, they lure unsuspecting people to eternal ruin (2 Pet. 2:13-22). The phrase, *"sons of disobedience,"* refers to those whose lives are characterized by disobedience, not to those who have fallen, but repented. **If someone professes to be a Christian, but he lives in habitual disobedience to God's moral standards, it is evidence that he has not been born again** (1 John 3:9). Unless he truly repents, he faces God's eternal wrath and judgment. Don't be deceived by anyone who says anything else (Gal. 5:19-21)!

## CONCLUSION

In 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Paul makes a similar point, *"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God."* But, don't stop reading there, or you might despair if you have committed any of those sins! He continues in 1 Corinthians 6:11, *"And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."*

### 4 Final Closing Thoughts:

- (1) There is hope for every sinner at the cross
- (2) Don't let your moral senses be dulled, so that you go along with our cultural drift into increasing immorality and greed
- (3) Let your senses be trained by God's Word that shows us His paths of righteousness, which are for our eternal joy and good
- (4) Trust in Christ and repent of your sin(s) and He will wash you from all your sins