

Ephesians 5:5-21 - Part 1

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 9-30-15

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21) - final section
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

Incentives for Righteous Living

- Incentive =
- Not enough to convey obligation, it has to include _____
- Sanctification - the biblical concept of becoming _____ (to be like Christ)
- Holiness is _____. Legalism vs. response

1. The _____ of Judgment (vv. 5-7)

- Reasons for abstaining immorality in the NT:
 - Trinitarian theology of the human body as created by God, belonging to Christ, and indwelt by the Spirit - I Cor. 6:12-20.
 - The inappropriateness of unholy practices among the holy people of God - Eph. 5:3-4
 - Now Paul adds certainty of judgment
- V. 5 - "For this you know **with certainty**..." - there is a coming kingdom that excludes unrighteousness
 - Are we "pursuing holiness without which no one will see the Lord" and "fleeing the wrath to come, or do we "sin that grace may abound"?"
- V. 6a - "empty words" - Gnostics: bodily sins could be committed without damage to the soul
 - Rob Bell: a case study
 - We must be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves," "rightly divide the word of truth," and constantly have our "minds renewed" because the wrath of God is coming (v. 6b)
- V. 7 - "**Therefore** do not be partakers with them"
 - Not "do not associate with them," rather do not _____ in what they are doing
 - Like Lot in Sodom, if we share in their practices we will share in their _____
- These solemn warnings are **not** for the _____. They are for the _____.