

STICKS and stones

EPHESIANS 5:3-6



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3But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

4Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

5For 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.

6Let 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 (ESV)

INTRO:

Christians should first ask if something is provoking and offensive to God.

In Paul's day, there were false Christians who argued that believers could live in sin and get away with it.

Sin in the life of a believer is different from sin in the life of an unsaved person!" Yes—*it's worse!*

1. Not living distinctly should be seen as living disobediently.

The phrase-"must not be named among you could be said, "no one should ever have a reason to talk about any of you ever doing such things"

2. We must realize that living a life of love and grace does not mean we accept what some may be apt to make light of or think to be excusable.

3. Always remember that "running away" from sin must be partnered with "running to" Jesus. This will help ensure a clear testimony of conversion and evidence of the gospel's effect in your life.

4. See sin as living BELOW what His gospel has afforded.

5. Thanksgiving is the mark of someone who has understood purity in speech.

6. Remember that the lifestyle of hating sin is not “how you can keep your salvation” but rather on the proofs in your lifestyle that you have salvation.

If there is not an impulse for righteousness then, there is no new nature.

7. Be careful that you do not mitigate what is right and wrong because of something being "common" in the lives of those around you.

8. While you are enjoying living in grace, don't forget that you were saved from HIS wrath. Remembering His wrath should redirect our motives back to dependence on God.

Final Thought:

Two indications of a person's character are what makes him laugh and what makes him weep.