

Series: The Wealth of Christ and the Walk of the Christian

**BE NOT YE THEREFORE  
PARTAKERS WITH THEM  
EPHESIANS 5:3-7**

Text: Ephesians 5:3

***Ephesians 5:7***

<sup>7</sup>*Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*

Introduction:

Last week we considered being a follower of God. That means that we are to imitate God just as a child imitates a parent.

We are to love as He loves; walk as He walks; talk as He talks; live as He lives; we are to mimic the Father is all things. That is a hard command to follow, but it is what we are to strive for in our day to day lives.

In the verses we will consider this evening, we are also given a command. In verse 7, the command is “Be ye not therefore partakers with them.” Just as we are to imitate the Lord in every possible way, we are to avoid imitating the actions, attitudes, and ways of the world.

It's easy to fall into the same rut in which the world runs. It's easy to go with the flow and do as the world around us does.

Many Christians do just that. We adopt the ways of the world. We adopt their fashions, their speech, their standards, their entertainment, and nearly everything else they do.

If we are going to emulate anyone, let it be the Lord.

Notice with me the challenges laid out in this text.

## **1. THERE ARE ACTIONS WE MUST AVOID (VS. 3-4)**

### ***Ephesians 5:3-4***

*<sup>3</sup> But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; <sup>4</sup> Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*

In these two verses, at least six sins are named.

These sins are to be avoided by the people of God.

Remember:

### ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

Note the sins mentioned here:

- Fornication
- Uncleaness

This word speaks of “corruption and rottenness.” It refers to impure motives and living. It speaks of moral corruption.

- Covetousness

This word refers to “greed and lust.” It is a desire to possess that which belongs to another.

- Filthiness

This word speaks of “obscenity, crudeness; that which is base and shameful.” It speaks of those things that are dirty in nature.

- Foolish Talking

It speaks of “silly speech.”

- Jestng

It speaks of the kind of wit, or talk that takes something that is said or done, no matter how innocent it is, and turns it into something obscene and suggestive.

We are to avoid all those things. “Let it not be once named among you.”

Note “There Are Actions We Must Avoid” but also:

## **2. THERE IS AN ATTITUDE WE MUST ADOPT (VS. 4)**

### ***Ephesians 5:4***

<sup>4</sup> *Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: **but rather giving of thanks.***

Rather than engaging in those activities and attitudes that characterize the world, the Bible offers us a

favorable alternative. Instead of being crude, rude and vile in a speech and actions, the Bible states, rather be ye thankful.

Here is what the Lord desires from us:

### **Hebrews 13:15**

<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

### **Ephesians 5:20**

<sup>20</sup> Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

### **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

<sup>18</sup> In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Instead of running to do the same things the lost world does, we who are saved must learn to adopt an attitude of praise and thankfulness for all the Lord has done for us.

Note not only are “There Actions We Must Avoid, and An Attitude We Must Adopt” but also:

### **3. THERE IS AN AUTHORITY WE MUST ACCEPT (VS. 7)**

#### ***Ephesians 5:7***

*<sup>7</sup> Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*

This passage closes with a clear command from the Lord.

The Lord has called His children to live life on a higher plain. We are to be like Him, not them.

#### ***Ephesians 5:1***

*1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*

#### ***1 John 2:6***

*6 He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*

#### ***John 15:4-5***

*4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*Matthew 7:13-14*

*13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

A Christian is subject to the commands and dictates of God.

It is His voice we must obey, not the song of the world around us.

Close:

We tend to look at ourselves in the best possible light. We always give ourselves the benefit of the doubt, always. We look at our own heart and we tend to say that everything is well.

Remember the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.

So, how are we to know for sure where we stand?

We know exactly where we stand when we place our lives alongside the Bible.

It is the plumb line, and it always tells the truth about us and about God.