

May 23, 2021
Ephesians 5:1-7

PURSUING PURITY

I. Introduction: Three Lighthouse's

- The Word of God
- Our Beliefs
- Our Behavior

All Three Must Be Aligned

“What good is it to have beliefs if you are not going to live by them.” Charles Colson

Illustration:

A Seminary Professor
The Frog In The Kettle

II. Beliefs To Behavior:

A. Key Word: LIVE

Ephesians 4:1 says, “As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to **live** a life worthy of the calling you have received.”

Ephesians 4:17 says, “So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer **live** as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.”

Ephesians 5:2, Paul writes, “And **live** a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

III. The Text:

“Be imitators of God, **therefore**, as dearly loved children. [2] and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. [3] But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. [4] Nor should there be obscenity,

foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. [5] For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. [6] Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. [7] Therefore do not be partners with them." Ephesians 5:1-7

IV. Therefore:

"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; [23] to be made new in the attitude of **your minds**; [24] and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." Ephesians 4:22-24

V. Christ's Example:

- A fragrant life, a fragrant aroma.
- Self-Sacrifice

VI. The Old Nature:

[3] But among you there must not be even a hint of **sexual immorality**, or of any kind of **impurity**, or of **greed**, because these are improper for God's holy people. [4] Nor should there be **obscenity, foolish talk** or **coarse joking**, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

VII. Conclusion And Application:

1. Are you being desensitized by the present evil world? Do things that once shocked you now pass you by with little notice? Have your sexual ethics eroded?
2. Where do your minds wander when you have no duties to perform? What do you think about in your free time?
3. What are you reading? Are there books or magazines or files in your bookcases that you wouldn't want anyone else to see?

4. What are you renting at the local video stores? How many hours do you spend watching TV? How many adulteries did you watch last week? How many murders? How many did we watch with our children?

5. How many chapters of the Bible did you read last week?