

"THE LIFE THAT IS SHAPED BY LOVE"

Eph. 5:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

V. 1 - Explained strongest terms (copy) God and Christ in love - be (imitators).

Goal of our striving - not be judged by a weak person - nothing less

than Christ. *The Peak was Mental Activity Between ages 4-15 - at 4 we know all the questions - At 15 we know all the answers!*

V. 2 - Walk in love (way to express)

*Little Boy says after Family dog licked his hand & face
What is it? Mother said Did He Bite you?
No, sobbed The Boy "But He tasted Me!"*

Christ gave himself up for us -- event was the cross - self giving.

To have life shaped by walk in love, your life will be regulated by

two things First, purity. Second, light. V. 8.

I. PURITY - V. 3-7

Paul stated the Christian life in positive terms (love).

Paul stated the Christian life in negative terms (sins) to be avoided. Not appropriate to a life of love.

1. Fornication - V. 3

Term refers to sexual immorality in general. Any form of sex evil.

Chastity was a new virtue introduced into the world by Christianity.

Ancient world regarded sexual immorality as no sin at all. Expected that every man have a mistress. Hundreds of sacred prostitute places like Corinth. Athens with profit from this trade built a new temple to Aphrodite, goddess of love. Nothing wrong building temple from profits of prostitution.

2. Uncleanness - Moral sense - all uncleanness. Contrast with sweet smell or the fragrance of Christ sacrifice.

3. Covetousness - V. 3
Moves from expressions of evil to the inner spring out of which immoral actions arise.

Unlicensed sexual desires.

Idolatrous drive to gain material possessions.

Diluted in our thinking today, people say, "He's a good Christian man - his only fault is covetousness."

Howard Hughes - Taliaferro - Pat Gold - lived Hotel Park Rooms - Soap - Movies - Paper - Barber - Ice cream - clothes - HBR - Staff - Post - Res - Hist - Plan

Like describing a woman as virtuous and having one fault - she is a prostitute.

4. Filthiness - V. 4

Indecent - shameful speech - filthy stories. No doubt there was much common talk in society, lewd discussion, adulterous and illicit relations. They were not to discuss things as possibilities.

Conversation not filthy. Subjects are not to be introduced into the mind. Not safe to talk or jest about. This is a grim commentary on many books, plays, films, subjects of forbidden and the ugly thing.

Col. 4:6 - "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt."

Thanksgiving is the dominant theme.

Highest use of your tongue is capacity to praise God.

Foolish words - silly talk.

Smart answers, shrewd intimation - nonsense - instrument of sin.

5. Reasons for Avoiding Sins of Uncleanness - V. 5-6.

V. 5 - Hard saying: Immorality keeps a person from inheriting the Kingdom of God.

Sign of the unregenerate person.

First, Kingdom of God incompatible with the whoremonger. The unclean - the covetous.

Their lives bear witness to the fact that they are strangers to grace.

Whoremonger - a male prostitute, gives his body in unlawful lust.

Covetous - idolater - greed for things.

✓ The Kingdom of God is the redemptive rule of God, delivers men from powers of evil, bringing peace, joy, righteousness in the Holy Spirit. The church is the fellowship of those who have submitted to the rule of the Kingdom. Luke 22:29.

The first reason for avoiding uncleanness is loss of inheritance.

✓ 2nd Second, another good reason avoiding uncleanness is the fact of God's wrath.

V. (6) "Let no one deceive you with empty words."

No lack of persons with specious arguments, with excuses, condone sins under discussion.

Gnosticism believed that sin of the body could not affect the soul. Had no bearing on the Spiritual Life.

Some said more you sin, more grace you get! Rom. 6.

Warned against "vain" empty words, void of truth.

Wrath of God "comes" - sons of disobedience - is present, even now happens, not just when Christ returns.

✓ 3rd Third - Partnership.

V. 7 Supporting and abetting them in association with them.

Not associate. Your life is regulated and shaped by purity.

II. LIGHT 8-13

Paul saw the heathen life in the dark;

Christian life in the light.

I want to live ^{4 Things Light} these verses up - light produces - V. 8-9.

Pleases - V. 10.

Perfects - V. 11-12.

Protects - V. 13.

First, Light Produces - V. 8-9

Deed of darkness are now behind them. Such things not in harmony with their character.

V. 8 They are to walk as children of light - conform their conduct that is essential.

Produces / righteousness /

Jesus coined this great name for his Disciples - That ye may be children of light. Union with him makes light.

Produces / fruit /

V. 9 - A tree will be fruitless unless the light of the sun can get at it.

Tendency in the light to blossom out into all forms and types of goodness.

First suggest the idea of natural tendency = silent spontaneous, effortless growth!

If we are to bear good fruit - must first have the light.

Tree will grow lopsided if half of it is shaded. Fruit of the light points to a specific source.

Fruitfulness of the indwelling light - fruit is generally used in Scripture in a good sense. A productive power. God's way is new - better - make the tree good, and the fruit will be good. Get Christ into your heart and good things will grow. "I live not I Christ liveth in me."

Fruitfulness of light gives instruction the Christian life is in the right place.

Get the light - "Abide in me, and I in you!" Fruit will come.

Note the specific fruits:

Goodness.

Righteousness.

Truth.

How do you measure up? Need not try to shine yourself, a million candles not light up your life.

Second Pleases - V. 10

Walking as children of light.

Directory and sum of the Christian pleasing Christ "acceptable to the Lord"

- well pleasing.

Secret of holy living - relations to Christ. Remarkable we can please or displease Jesus.

"Why call ye me Lord! Lord! And do not the things I say?" Meaning of Christian life, I give my whole self to Him.

Is it a trifle - do everything to please Jesus Christ.

What is it to please Christ? His likeness - be like Him.

Crucify self and commune with God - student, miner, merchant - farmer - sailor - not easy.

If you want to know the will of God and take the way of Christ, you will not be left in the dark - 90% of our perplexities is not having a pure simple wish to do what is right.

Motive - mother will say do it to please me!

Cold to say - do it because it is right.

Do it because it will bring happiness.

Do it to please Jesus Christ - that is the fire that melts the ore.

Master are you satisfied with me?

"Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Light enables us to discriminate between that which is pleasing and not pleasing to our Lord.

Often in a shop wish to buy a piece of silk or article, you take it out in sunlight and hold it up to the sun to test it for flaws.

Expose every action, decision to light of Christ.

Third, Perfects. V. 11-12

V. 11 - The perfection of light exposes that which is evil. Best way to rid our society of evil is to drag it out into the light.

Light brings perfect fruit.

Darkness is fruitless, only works of evil.

Works are barren - Godless life no permanent results. Think of going empty handed - I gained prizes, \$300,000 a year playing football. They all drop their heads - nothing in my hands I bring - His works do follow him.

Difference in what a godless man does and intended to do! Degraded with slums of life, wild grapes.

Plain duty - abstinence No - works of darkness.

✓ What made the church victorious over pagan superstition.

Don't be afraid of the word Puritan!

It should be a crown of glory - no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness.

But how is this to be done.

Protest - a duty - reprove them.

Dumb church is a dying church - she must take action against sin.

Some - a shame even to speak of those things done of them in secret.

No shock when immoral things are done -- Christian man speaks out against them.

Some things so indecent - improper - moral scandals - foul things - filth - reprove things too bad to speak about. How dark the darkness is.

Perfection - you can shine.

Old writer said - The Presence of a Saint "Hinders the Devil of elbow room to do his tricks."

Fourth, Protects - V. 13

V. 13 - Wonderful idea about light. Everything which is illuminated becomes

light. Light has a cleansing quality. (Finley Graham) one of few men to go into the R.L.D. camp in Lebanon & come out alive, on 54, Beirut taken prisoner, while his car being searched a young man found a tract (Faith casts out fear) - said these people are hardened - or let them go!

V. 12

Sun light has healing rays, light of Christ like that.

Things become visible.

CONCLUSION:

Is your life shaped by love?

Santa Ana, California - 8 year old girl walked - Police Station, August 25, 1981, carrying hand-written note said, "She had just been abandoned by mother. "Please take care of my daughter for me. We have nowhere to live and she is hungry. I can't take proper care of her. I can't clothe her, or feed her, or give her a warm bed to sleep in at night. I can't give her vitamins or anything at all. We have been on the road two weeks and haven't gotten proper rest or food. We slept a few night in people's homes but they can't accept my child for long.

So I'm asking you to care for my child, please put her in a home where there is much love and care. Where she will learn to pray and read the Bible and learn of the good things of life for we are Christians.

My daughter's name is Karlene Althea Forbes - born October 20, 1972. Eight years old, please take care of her for me. Thank you. Love, Dianna Robinson.

Whatever the circumstances -- "It showed, the mother cared - in one way or another."

*That mother know "A Christian home could shape 8yo old girl's life"
Get daughter in light shape life!
Open your heart break & cry out - for boys & girls this city who
Need light shape life!*