

Eph. 5:1-6

I. Pos: Be imitators of God and walk in Christ's love (1-2)

A. Be imitators of God, as His beloved children (1)

1. Therefore, be imitators of God (1a)
2. As beloved children [behave] (1b)

B. And walk in Christ's self-sacrificial love (2)

1. And walk in love (2a)

"walk" = lifestyle, cf. 2:2, 2:10, 4:1, 4:17, 5:8, 15

2. Just like Christ loved you and sacrificed Himself for you (2b-c)

a Just as Christ also loved you (2b)

We are to love because Christ loved us -cf. 4:32 where we are to forgive because Christ forgave us
cf. also 1 Jn. 4:7, 11

b And He gave Himself to God as an offering and sacrifice for you to be a pleasing aroma (2c)

-cf. v. 25

II. Neg: Avoid the kind of lifestyle that is under God's wrath (3-6)

A. Avoid non-Christian lifestyle, which leads to non-Christian destiny (3-5)

1. Avoid inappropriate lifestyle, but be thankful (3-4)

a Neg: Don't behave or speak in a non-Christian manner (3-4b)

- 1) Do not let any non-Christian behavior be among you (3)

a) Do not let sexual immorality and all moral corruption or covetousness be named among you (3a)

-cf. v. 5

"sexual immorality" is any kind of illegitimate sexual activity, therefore, this term is not limited to forbidding only the more socially unacceptable activity, but it forbids all sexual activity outside of the covenant of marriage

"moral corruption" is moral impurity, immorality, this is also a broad term, but also typically focuses on sexual sin, notice that the first two terms are joined together on "covetousness" cf. 4:19

"not be named" = not mentioned because it does not exist -cf. 1:21, 3:15

b) Just as is fitting to saints (3b)

- 2) Do not let any non-Christian speech be among you (4a-b)

a) And [Do not let] shamefulness and foolish talk or vulgar joking [be named among you] (4a)

"shamefulness" is "behavior that flouts social and moral standards, shamefulness, obscenity" BDAG, it results in public disgrace and shame when the society is morally upright

"foolish talk" is any talk that is silly, foolish and/or stupid

"vulgar joking" is coarse jesting, vulgar, dirty expressions and indecent content

b) Which things are not appropriate (4b)

- b Pos: But rather, [Let] thanksgiving [be among you] (4c)

2. Reason: Because you know that a non-Christian lifestyle leads to a non-Christian destiny (5)
 - a Recognize this: (5a)
 - cf. 1 Sam. 20:3, Jer. 42:22
 - b Reason: Knowing that non-Christian lifestyle does not lead to Christian destiny (5b-c)
 - 1) Because you know: (5b)
 - 2) That everyone who is sexually immoral or morally corrupt or covetous, which is idolatry, does not have an inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God (5c)
 - Notice that the three kinds of people are the same characteristics to be avoided in v. 3
 - On “one who is sexually immoral” cf. 1 Cor. 5:9, 6:9
 - On “idolatry” cf. 1 Cor. 5:10-11, 10:7
 - “inheritance” = transcendent salvation as the inheritance of God’s children, cf. 1:14, 18

B. Therefore: Make no mistake, God punishes these things with wrath (6)

1. Let no one deceive you with empty words (6a)
 - “empty words” words without power or value because they are untrue cf. 1 Cor. 15:14
2. Reason: Because the wrath of God is coming on the sons of disobedience because of these things (6b)
 - On “wrath” cf. 2:3
 - “sons of disobedience” = those who are characterized by disobedience, cf. 2:2
 - “disobedience” is always disobedience toward God often with the connotation of disbelieving the Gospel, cf. 2:2