

## Eph Ch 5 Vs 3-

### Kingdom Qualities (Things not fitting)

We spent our time last week examining 2 of the primary attributes or qualities that are to define the life of the child of God. That in reality we are *commanded* to have coursing through us (these things have come into us) and now also they're to be flowing out through us by our surrender to the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We've seen the standards set before us in each of them as demonstrated in the divine example as to how or to what degree we're to live out those commands. and Rather than test you to see if anyone remembers what those attributes were I'll just remind you, they were forgiveness, and love, God the Father setting the standard by which we're to forgive, and God the Son setting the standard of how we're to love.

We are to be imitators of God, now that encompasses a lot but in the specific context of this particular scripture it's in regards to the forgiveness that God has in Christ given to you. Which is complete, you might say that it's perfect forgiveness. When God forgives you, when you confess your sin to Him and receive His forgiveness the bible says that, "*As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*"

There's a reason why it doesn't say that He casts our sin as far as the North is from the South, because that's a measurable distance, that has it's limits. You start heading north; eventually if you go far enough you'll be headed south. But you can't track how far the east is from the west; you can head east indefinitely and never reach west. So it's not without significance that that's the illustration that God places for us in His word to teach us on the totality and complete eradication of our sin in Christ; it's gone; it's forgiven. and It won't ever be used against you by God in times of future failures, now Satan may seek to remind you of it, and use it to weigh you down, but God will never do that. Well even so when we forgive, it should be complete, never to be used again against the individual who has wronged us in times of future failure.

When Jesus was on the cross; right before He yielded up His Spirit He said, "*It is finished.*" Or it is complete, or even it is perfected, what is perfected, what is complete? The work for which He was sent to this earth, the penalty for mans sin had received perfect atonement, or payment in full, the means by which God could impute to you a clean slate had been completed. So now as you come to God through Christ, even though your sin is as scarlet, even though you and I are so undeserving of God's forgiveness, He willfully, and joyfully and wantingly gives it. and We are to be just as eager and desirous to forgive those who have violated us, and we're to walk in love, love is the wellspring for that forgiveness and we spent considerable time discussing this agape' love of God in our last gathering.

We're to love others as Christ has loved us and *given* Himself for us, and that right there should tell you what type of love it is that's defined in the love of Christ. It's a giving and sacrificial love, a love that suffers long and is kind, a love that doesn't envy; doesn't parade itself, isn't puffed up; or behave rudely, a love that doesn't seek its own, or become provoked, a love that thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; it bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

That's the definition in short of the love of Christ, it's not self-seeking but seeks to serve others, He gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling aroma. An obvious allusion to the sacrificial rite of the OT that was only a shadow of the atonement that would be found in Christ, He is the substance or the fulfillment of what those things merely foreshadowed.

This in no way insinuates that God is pleased with the fact that sin demands death by a blood sacrifice, or that He took joy in the fact that His Son had to die in order to save the lost. But what it is saying is that the death of Christ satisfies the holy law of God and is therefore acceptable and well pleasing to the Father. and In like manner when we through agape deny ourselves and lay down our lives, our wants, our ambitions, and our desires in order to serve others needs, that in the same way that to is well pleasing to Him. Remember Heb 13:16, "*But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*" So these are the things that constitute true love, but anytime God demonstrates or illustrates, or gives to us the real deal, Satan will always fabricate a counterfeit. Why is it you never see a counterfeit 7 dollar bill? Because there's never been a genuine article, why is it that until Jesus had walked the earth no one ever came along who claimed to be the messiah? Because up until that time there hadn't been the genuine, well when God illustrates and demonstrates genuine love, true love, Satan will seek to counterfeit that as well, and that's what Paul addresses now. He's spoken of true love and it's attributes, now we see the counterfeit.

Vs3-7

So here we have the contrast to true love, or agape' love, and as to where true love is selfless, serving and forgiving, the worlds type of love is carnal, lustful, and self-indulgent. So, opposite to true love is carnal lust. and You may remember last week when I said that God's love is not a reciprocal type of love, it's not give and take, it's just give. Well with the world it's definitely reciprocal, it's giving the bear minimum with the expectation of receiving the maximum in return. and Jesus reprimanded that type of love, or placing give and take standards on love, He said, "*if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.*"

In other words, all out heathens will be good to people who are good to them in return, how does that demonstrate the love of God? He said if you want to demonstrate the love of God, love your enemies, do good to them, lend to people who have need and don't expect them to pay you back, even as God met your need and was good to you and you can never pay Him back, then your reward will be great and you will be sons of the Most High. But what we're seeing here in these few vs has nothing to do with the love of God; to the contrary it's all about the lusts of the flesh. and The bible says that those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh along with it's passions and desires, these are the things which should not be characterizing your life if you call yourself Christian, Vs 3 says that in fact it's not even to be named among us.

What isn't to be named among us, well 1<sup>st</sup> of all fornication, interesting that that's at the top of the list, and we see how Satan has twisted and so distorted things because that's the primary act that the world associates or equates love with. As a matter of fact that's the term that they quite often use when they're in reference to the act of fornication; let's make *love*. But in reality according to the scriptures that's a primary example of something that is lacking in love, (in reference to true love). Now understand what's meant by fornication, this has nothing to do with the marriage bed or the physical union that takes place between a married couple. Heb 13:4 says that, "*Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*"

That right there should give you an idea of the fact that fornication has nothing to do with marriage, this word "fornication" speaks of illicit or prohibited sexual intercourse, it's the word "porneia" from where we get our word pornography and it includes adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest or any other sexual type of act outside of marriage. Which as I said is in reality a display of that which lacks or is destitute of true love. Because anytime someone entices another person into the act fornication or sexual intimacy, they're not at all considering the other person, but in reality they're only considering themselves and their own desire for some type of gratification. Be it emotional, sexual or whatever, but they're not being considerate of the other person, and the fact that they are leading them into damning sin, a sin that leads eternal separation from God, a sin that scripture records concerning those who practice these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. and So in reality it's a very unloving thing to lead someone into an action that is so destructive to that persons spiritual walk or spiritual life. To lead them in total disobedience to the desires of God for their life, and so it's interesting and in reality a tragedy that Satan has deceived so many, so as to make them think that to lead someone by this certain means into eternal damnation is an act of love. It's an act of lust, there's no true love there, if you really loved the person then you'd be considerate of their conscience, of their feelings and emotions not wanting to subject them to the guilt and shame that takes place afterwards, and most of all you'd be considerate of their soul, not wanting to lead them to destruction. (Repeat 1<sup>st</sup> part of vs 3)

This uncleanness really is just a way of underlining or emphasizing fornication, Paul is basically saying this isn't an all inclusive or exhaustive list, not only is fornication not acceptable but put *all* uncleanness away from you, uncleanness basically covers anything fornication may have missed, the word speaks of impurity, or a lustful or immoral lifestyle, this word even catches the motives, it includes impure motives. So maybe you haven't engaged in the act itself, but you're leading a lustful and immoral life from the heart, your motives aren't pure; you're "unclean".

Then finally in this list is covetousness, which may at 1<sup>st</sup> glance seem out of place next to fornication and uncleanness, but you don't have to ponder it too long to realize what's at the root of these 2 previously mentioned transgressions and that is covetousness. Meaning a longing for what's not yours and/or a greediness for more of it, and because these sins seem so attractive, because they have the allure of something beautiful and good or rewarding, spouses are often forsaken, children are utterly neglected, friends are disregarded and homes are destroyed as no effort is spared to fulfill the desire to have the one who is lusted after- and it's all in the name of love. How easily deceived we can be, these are the things that fit into that category found in 1 John 2:16 *"For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world."*

The lust of the flesh, fornication, uncleanness and the lust of the eyes, covetousness, but as John said these things are not of the Father, but of the world, these are carnal tendencies, not godly inclinations. Therefore we read, "let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints" or set apart ones, those who have been set apart to God. It's not appropriate behavior for the child of God, we shouldn't even be entertaining the stories of others, we're not to give place to that in the body of Christ, it's not to be named among us. and If we know of it happening around us the bible says that we're not even to associate with those that call themselves Christians and lead immoral lifestyles. Listen to 1 Cor 5:11 *"Now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person."* Why, because in effect we're saying that we endorse that lifestyle or that it's really no big deal and we become associated with that. Now if the person is open to hearing from the Lord and repents then that's right on, or if it's a non-believer that's not your primary concern, their salvation is.

But we're talking here about someone who says they're a Christian and knowingly leads a warped and sinning lifestyle with no desire to repent, don't even eat with them. Don't endorse their compromise; the bible has so much to say concerning the eternal need to abstain from immorality, why, because we live in these fleshly tents and the Lord knows the tendencies of man and He loves us enough to remind us over and over again so that we might stay pure and that our bodies might remain in subjection to Him rather than given over to the lusts of the flesh. We'll talk more on that in just a little bit, but we see in vs 4 more qualities that are unfit for the kingdom, it says

Vs4

So there is to be a transformation that takes place not only in our lifestyles as we come to know Jesus but also in the way that we communicate with one another, and this is one area that God has done a tremendous work in my life. There was a time that my mind was in the gutter pretty much 24/7 and at any given opportunity that I could glean to pollute others around me I would seize that.

I remember coming to know the Lord and reading through the proverbs and coming to scriptures like Prov 6:12-15 where it says, *“A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.”* and I thought woe that’s me, and I would read carefully who I was, what it was that characterized me, worthlessness, wickedness, perversity in my heart, devising evil continually, one who sows discord, you know always trying to get in there and get people kind of at each other for a laugh. and Then the end, therefore his calamity shall come suddenly, suddenly he shall be broken and that with out remedy.

Scriptures like Prov 8:13 *“The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.”* and These scriptures would pierce me, because (don’t get me wrong I knew that God loved me) but I thought man God hates who I am, my character, that which I had worked at for years to become and had refined to an art; quick witted puns and insinuations all for a stinking laugh and I had become the epitome or the personification of that which the Lord detested, and to think I took pride in it at one time, these scriptures were like knives to my heart. But in reality though I didn’t realize it at the time and though they were a knife of sorts, they were like the surgeons scalpel cutting down into the deep recesses of my heart, doing emergency open heart surgery on my and removing these things from my heart. Oh sure there are still some things there that I’ll regretfully take to my grave but I can honestly say that I am not that guy anymore, I don’t think the same, I don’t look at situations the same, and I’ve been renewed in the spirit of my mind by the Spirit and the word of God.

We’re to communicate in ways that are edifying, not in filthiness, or obscenity, not in foolish talking, the word there is “morologia” (mo-rol-og-ee'-ah); which is really a compound of 2 words “moros” from where we get our word “Moron” which means foolish or stupid, and “lego” which means to speak or to call out. It’s moronic or foolish talking, we’re not to communicate with impious godless and irreverent speech or foolish talking, and Paul takes it one more level, nor coarse jesting.

We're not talking here about good clean humor, or I'd be in trouble, Prov 17:22 says, "*A merry heart does good, like medicine*", it's good for you. But what this is speaking of here is what I was speaking about earlier, those who are quick witted and are able to take any comment that you make and lead you through the gutter with it. If that's what you're about and you're a believer, you're out of line. Wiersbe writes this concerning coarse jesting: "Jesting is a translation of a word that means "able to turn easily." This suggests a conversationalist who can turn any statement into a coarse jest. The gift of wit is a blessing, but when it is attached to a filthy mind or a base motive, it becomes a curse." There are those people who can pollute any conversation by throwing in these jests that are out of line, and that's not to describe the life of the believer. and It's easy to slip into that arena, you don't have to cuss or get vulgar to take peoples minds places they ought not be.

I encourage you to be careful in this area of your life and again as David said, we ought to pray "*Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.*" That we not speak those things that aren't fitting, because the issue goes much deeper then the words of our mouths, because according to Jesus the words of our mouths are simply an overflow of what's in our hearts. and A foul mouth is simply the fruit of a foul heart, we talked about that last week, Prov 4:23 says "*Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*"

You remember when the Pharisees were down on the disciples of Jesus because they ate with out washing their hands and so they were all talking about how that was so un-cool and that because of that they were unclean, but Jesus answered and said to them, "*Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are the things which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.*" In Matt 12:33-37 Jesus said in speaking to the religious leaders, "*Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or else make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for a tree is known by its fruit. Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. (Listen) For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*"

Thus with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and *with the mouth* confession is made unto salvation. You will be justified by your words, or condemned, you will either confess Jesus Christ as Lord as unto salvation or you won't, but the words reveal the heart, and if you are characterized by speaking words that aren't fitting for the kingdom, then that only testifies that you don't have a heart that's fit for the kingdom and you need an overhaul spiritually. Again I'm not talking about an occasional slip here and there, for we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body (James said). But if this characterizes your life then you need to seriously re-evaluate your position before God, because it's not fitting, and this a re-emphasis of what we just read in Eph 4:29 *"Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers."* and Now here He is right back on it, Col 3:8 says. *"But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth."* Prov 15:2 *"The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."*

A sign of maturity is how we use words, whether we're using knowledge rightly or pouring forth foolishness, and I'd encourage you to read James ch 3 in regards to the tongue and the way we're to speak, and when you get to vs 8 don't seek justification for yourself because the things that are impossible with man are simple for God, nothing is too hard for Him. We're not to be characterized by filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, but rather, or in contrast, by the giving of thanks.

The believer is to be characterized by (now a 3<sup>rd</sup> thing), 1<sup>st</sup> forgiveness, 2<sup>nd</sup> agape love and now, thanksgiving. That's the appropriate disposition for you and me a few correlative vs concerning the giving of thanks, Col 3:15 and 17 *"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* Heb 13:15 *"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name."* and 1 Thess 5:18 *"in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

Vs5

In case you weren't sure, Paul emphatically removes all doubt, for this you know or for this you can be sure of, if you didn't know before now you do, that no fornicator (finish vs). Notice the insight given to covetousness, in reality it's idolatry, it's placing something other than God as the priority of your life, you are consumed with this and you have to have it, God gets put on hold and this takes priority, that's idolatry. and Again if these are the things that characterize your lifestyle then you are not a child of God, now this is not denying the fact that the child of God can fall in any of these areas, but we're not talking about stumbling or failing the Lord here.

This is talking about the nature of the person if you are a fornicator or an unclean person, or a covetous man, you see this is aiming at the person, I've known (unfortunately) several believers that have fallen into every one of these areas and at times have even wallowed in it for a season, because they choose to walk according to the flesh rather than the Spirit. But the terminology here has changed from the generalities that aren't fitting as a believer in vs 3 to the very nature of the person here in vs 5; if these things define you, you are not a child of God. and You have no inheritance in the kingdom of God 1 Cor 6:9-10 says, *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."*

The implication being so don't allow these things to characterize your life, and we're not talking about reformation here, we're talking about transformation, don't let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey it in it's lusts. 1 Cor 6:15-20 says, *"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

One more correlation to Eph 5,5 Gal 5:19-21 *"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."*

Vs6

The ones who are dead in sin and trespass, in whom the spirit of the prince of the power of the air works (Eph 2:2), don't let anyone deceive you with empty words, words like well in reality aren't we married in God's eyes when we do this? That's a common sought after justification, especially by people who are tentatively getting married, well doesn't sex make us married in the sight of God? No it makes you one who has engaged in fornication in the sight of God, who has given themselves over to carnal lusts and you're twisting scripture to try and justify it. That is such an empty argument, and people say all kinds of things to try and justify the flesh, "a God of love understands" yeah, He understands that you're in sin and you need to repent because it's because of these very things that the wrath of God is coming upon the world, it's sin and rebellion against Him. You remember in the book of numbers ch 25 when the men of Israel began to engage in sexual relations and practices with the Moabite women and in one day God slaughtered 24,000 of them before Phinehas appeased the wrath of God. and Listen His attitude towards sexual perversion hasn't changed, He's still a holy and righteous God and His righteousness will be vindicated.

Vs7