

Ephesians: Marks of Holiness

Ephesians 5:3-7

Holiness Lived Out (v. 3-4)

- We are called to live in holiness
 - As those who have been set apart by God
 - Therefore, we should look different from the world
- This includes ceasing sinful actions, thoughts, and speech
 - Which Paul calls shameful
- Shameful actions:
 - Sexual immorality (*porneia*): Any sexual act outside the confines of marriage
- Shameful thoughts:
 - Impurity: unclean thoughts
 - Lust
 - Impure motives
 - Greed: a desire for more; covetousness
- Shameful speech:
 - Obscenity: vulgar language; curses
 - Foolish talk: that which doesn't glorify God
 - Course joking: making light of things that are serious
- The solution to all of these is Thanksgiving

Living Out Our Inheritance (v. 5)

- Paul insists that no one whose life is defined by the previously mentioned sins has an inheritance in God's kingdom
 - He is referring to those whose lives are defined by the sins listed in v. 3
- Their inheritance in the kingdom is not in jeopardy
- Rather, their identity is in question
 - Because their lives do not reflect the inward change that results with a new identity in Christ

The Company We Keep (v. 6-7)

- Paul warns us of those who deceive with empty words
 - Both those who claim Christ and not adhere to His truth
 - This is the group often alluded to when there is language of God's wrath in the NT
 - And those who do not know Christ
- We are not partner with them (2 Cor 6:14)
 - This is a reference to:
 - Marriage
 - Business partners
 - Close friendships

So What?

- Are we living out our inheritance?
- Or do we still look like the world?

Meditation Verse: Ephesians 5:3