

# EPHESIANS

5:1-17

## THE BATTLE TO BE GOOD PART 2

### THE BATTLE TO BE GOOD

(EPHESIANS 5:1-17; PART TWO)

The more you follow Jesus, the more you appreciate just how loving and lovable He is! I've always liked the lyrics of the old hymn that says Jesus gets "*sweeter as the years go by.*" And here's the deal - the more you love Jesus, then the more you also want to be good like Jesus. The Lord Himself once said to His disciples, *If you love Me, then you will obey My commands* (John 14:15). But there is a really hard reality that all Christians have to deal with. As we discussed last Sunday, Christians can love Christ like crazy, but still get tripped up in the sinful garbage this world is always flinging at us. The truth is, even as born-again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ as our God and Savior, we find it hard to win *the battle to be good*. Well, fortunately for us, when God saved us from our sin, He knew we'd still struggle with doing sinful stuff until we experience perfection in Heaven. So to help us avoid the evil-life choices of our culture, and make the good-life choices of our Christ, the Apostle Paul wrote **Ephesians 5:1-17**. Today in Part 2, we'll pick up where we left off in Part 1, as we continue to learn God's strategy for winning the battle to be good.

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.* (Romans 12:21)

### SINS TO AVOID

(SEXUAL SIN)

*Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed named among you.  
Such sins have no place among God's holy people.* (Ephesians 5:3)

1. (v.3)
2. (v.3)
3. (v.3)

(VERBAL SIN)

*And there must be no obscenities, foolish talk, or coarse joking, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.* (Ephesians 5:4)

1. (v.4)

2. (v.4)

3. (v.4)

### WHY AVOID THEM

1. (v.3) Because God designed your ...
2. (v.4) Because your tongue is to be ...
3. (vv.5-6) Because people miss out on ...
4. (vv.7-8) Because messing with sin ...

### TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

Cleanup ...

Cleanup ...

Think ...

### FOR THOUGHT & TALK

Take no more than 5 minutes to quickly review the main points from Pastor John's message. As you discuss the questions, don't expect to answer all of them. Just discuss the ones your group would most like to explore together. Remember, the goal of your small group is to grow together relationally, to **apply** God's Word to our daily living, and to pray for one another and our church.

**1.** Read aloud, aloud **Ephesians 5:1-17** from the NLT and the NASB. The entire passage deals with how believers are to conduct themselves for good in an evil world. Our focus in this message and in these questions deals primarily with **Ephesians 5:3-8**.

**2.** Wow, Paul's words in Ephesians 5:3-8 are super direct. Place yourself in the cultural setting of the church at Ephesus. As new believers in Jesus, you have never before heard anything like Paul's teaching in regard to your sexual and verbal conduct. You have never before been called to follow a totally different, Christ-like approach to sexual and verbal conduct. Again, in that setting, what's going through your head and heart the first time you hear this aspect of God's "good way" for overcoming evil spelled out like this? What were you thinking when Pastor John taught it today, in light of our current culture?

**3.** When it comes to Biblical principles of holy sexual behavior, Christians are usually dismissed as being "uptight prudes." When it comes to Biblical principles of holy verbal communication, Christians are usually dismissed as being namby-pamby, goody-two-shoes who are offended over the slightest "off-color" remark. Is that the case? Might it be that God knows that the world's sexual standards, and the world's way of communicating using foul language, actually are evil? What are the benefits of following God's principles for sexual conduct and verbal interaction?

**4.** In today's world, it is well-nigh impossible for even believers to maintain sexual purity and verbal integrity. When you're responsible for the failure that happened and the sexual/verbal sin that occurred, what does the Bible tell you to do in order to restore your fellowship with the Lord and with the person(s) you've hurt? On the opposite side, when you're the one who has been offended, what does the Bible tell you to do in relation to the one who has sinned against you??

**5.** What does it mean to "clean up your act" sexually and verbally? How does "thinking eternally" help us to do that?