



EPHESIANS 5:1-7


“Not even a hint”

I. A necessary encouragement

- ❖ Ephesians 5:1--*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children*

1. Pursue holiness
2. You can do it because you belong to Him! Holiness is now a part of your identity!

- ❖ Ephesians 5:2--*And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

 We imitate God, by following our example, Christ. What kind of example did Christ set?

1. He loved us and was willing to sacrifice himself for us
2. He endured all temptation yet was without sin. This made him a fragrant offering to God

- ❖ Hebrews 4:14-15--*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*


- ❖ Luke 22:42-44--*saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.” 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*

“Jesus knows all about our struggles. He will guide till the day is done. There’s not a friend like the lowly Jesus, No not one, No, not one”

II. Not even a hint.

- ❖ Ephesians 5:3-4--*But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.*

1. Though it may seem that this passage is dealing with a number of issues, I believe it is dealing primarily with sexual sin.
 - Sexual immorality and impurity--sexual sins performed in the flesh. Fornication, Adultery, and Homosexuality.
 - Covetousness--sexual sins performed in the mind or lustfulness. Paul, to show that the sins of the mind are not necessarily less sinful, identifies them as idolatry (5:5).
 - Filthy talk and crude language--language that cause a brother/sister to stumble in these areas
2. Not even a hint!?
3. This issue is important to us as well

-  Ephesus was infamous for its sexual immorality. All kinds of sexual perversion was used in worship at the Temple of Artemis. Sexual perversion was very much a part of Ephesian culture. America is in a very similar situation.



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- In 2001, Americans opposed same-sex marriage by a 57% to 35% margin. Today, there is slightly more support for same-sex marriage than opposition to it, with 48% in favor and 44% opposed.¹
- According to Christianity today, 60% of evangelical christians no longer believe sex outside of marriage is wrong²
- Premarital sex is so pervasive it is nearly universal. “The study, which used statistics from the 1982, 1988, 1995 and 2002 National Survey of Family Growth, asked about 40,000 people ages 15-44 about their sexual behavior and traced the trends in premarital sex back to the 1950s. Of those interviewed in 2002, 95% reported they had had premarital sex;”³
- Adultery is such an issue in our country that “In a press release from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (divorce lawyers) 68% of the divorces involved one party meeting a new lover over the Internet.
- Pornography is such an issue that according to the same press release, 56% involved one party having “an obsessive interest in pornographic websites.”
- According to a survey published in the Journal of the American Psychological Association, 86% of men are likely to click on Internet sex sites if given the opportunity.⁴
- According to a study cited in the Washington Post, more than 11 million teenagers view Internet pornography on a regular basis.⁵
- According to the 2010 U.S. Census there are just over 20 million people in that category in our country.⁶
- “25% of all search engine requests are pornography related. That’s 68 million a day”⁷
- 20% of men admit to viewing pornography at work⁸
- 13% of women admit to viewing pornography at work⁹

4. Paul gives an overcoming strategy

III. An important warning

- ❖ Ephesians 5:5-6--*For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.*

IV. The importance of “them”

- ❖ Ephesians 5:7--*Therefore do not become partners with them;*
 - Paul appeals again to identity. In using the word “them” he is clarifying that the Ephesians have an altogether separate identity from them. They have an altogether separate destiny from “them.” Thus they should live altogether differently from “them.” Let us head Paul’s words. Let’s rejoice in our identity in Christ and live altogether differently from the way the world lives. Let there not even be a hint of sexual immorality among us, Reformation.

¹ <http://features.pewforum.org/same-sex-marriage-attitudes/index.php>

² Originally cited in, Bryan Chapell’s sermon, “The Smell of Jesus”

³ http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/2006-12-19-premarital-sex_x.htm

⁴ Covenant Eyes Pornography Statistics

⁵ ibid

⁶ <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-03.pdf>

⁷ <http://unitedfamiliesinternational.wordpress.com/2010/06/02/14-shocking-pornography-statistics/>

⁸ ibid

⁹ ibid