

Ephesians 5:3-5
“The Beauty of Sacrifice and the Loss of Inheritance”

Introduction

In Ch. 4 we were exhorted to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, and forgiving one another even as God for Christ' sake has forgiven us.

In Ch. 5 we were exhorted to be followers (mimesis) of God, as directly related to the previous exhortation to forgive one another even as God for Christ' sake has forgiven us, as is noted by the 'therefore'.

God has set the example for forgiveness.

- In love. **Matt 5:43** "Ye have heard that it has been said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemies, but I say unto you, Love your enemies, do good to those that hate you, pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you, so shall you be the children of your Father which is in heaven."
- In mercy. **Luke 6:36** "Be merciful as your Father is also merciful."
- Your Father wants you to be conformed into His image.

God desires that people know that we are His children, by following His example of "LOVE"

John 13:35

35 "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

1 John 4:9-10

9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but **that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Heb 10:12

12 But this Man, after He had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down at the right hand of God,

1 John 4:11

11 Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.**

At the end of verse 2, we see the beauty of "sacrifice".

Eph 5:2 a sweet smelling aroma

Eph 5:2

2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, **an offering and a sacrifice** to God for **a sweet-smelling aroma**.

Jesus' example of being in human flesh was a reminder for us to use "our time and our bodies" to live a life of sacrifice.

Paul talks about it in the book of Philippians:

Phil 2:5-8

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
 7 but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.**
 8 And **being found in appearance as a man,** He **humbled Himself** and **became obedient** to the **point of death,** even the **death of the cross.**

Jesus, before He died on the cross, was living as if He was already crucified (i.e. He died to Himself, to His own wants, to His own desires):

That's why Jesus said to His disciples:

Luke 9:23

23 Then He said to [them] all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:24

24 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it.

That's why Paul said in the book of Romans:

Rom 12:1

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, **that you present your bodies a living sacrifice,** holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Paul explained this sacrificial way of thinking earlier in the book of Philippians 2:

Phil 2:1-4

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,
 2 fulfill my joy by **being like-minded,** having **the same love,** being of one accord, **of one mind.**
 3 Let **nothing** be done through **selfish ambition or conceit,** but **in lowliness of mind** let each **esteem others better than himself.**
 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also **for the interests of others.**

It was Jesus looking out for our interests. That was the reason He was able to live the way He did, eventually being willing to die on the cross.

Heb 12:2

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Today, the subject of the next few verses goes into the area of sex. Such a strong human desire and impulse. One that we all must say, at some point, “No!” to this certain sexual impulse.

Eph 5:3

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Today, in our society, these areas I’ll describe some today, are believed to be true:

Homosexuality:

A homosexual might say, “my attraction is to others of the same sex, and I don’t think I should deny my impulse since I was born with it”. But yet, if that same person at age 35 had an equally strong impulse or attraction to a 12 year old boy, should he deny that “impulse”?

Man/Boy Love:

There is a strong movement that is called, “Man/Boy Love Association” that says, these desires for sex with children (much younger than 12), is something they were born with and should not be denied, but many are in prison because they didn’t deny this impulse.

Monogamy is not natural, but a Judeo-Christian ethic suppressing man’s true reality:

Many today say that for one woman to satisfy any man is ridiculous and that every man should be able to go have sex with other women, like a man would go out to the bar and have a drink. There are woman that agree with this, and say I understand that men are curious and have a high sex drive and they should be able to go out and have sex with other women, as long as they stay faithful to their wives at home. (Many like the Kennedy family practice this).

What about guys who like to have sex with young girls as young as 12?

According to many, most men have such attractions but won’t admit it. They say like the homosexual says, “I was born this way”, I can’t stop it, my mind is programmed to be attracted to very young girls. And many men are in prison because of it.

Conclusion:

I think we all have to say at some point, that these sex attractions are wrong. If you can’t agree with any of the above sex practices as wrong, let me ask this question? Is a 50 year old man having sex with a 2 year old wrong? I think even a homosexual that wants to have sex with young boys would agree that it is wrong. Thus, I would ask this to the homosexual - Do you also need to judge someone else’s sex life?

The answer is yes.

By reality, we must all judge certain types of sex as wrong.

So the question is who has the right to judge, “sex”?

The answer is, the one who made it? God

God made sex ,and it is a beautiful and wonderful thing when it is in its right boundaries.
Sex is only to be between a married, man and wife, period.

You might say, that is a real sacrifice for me, to view sex in that way.

Well, the example of Jesus is to live a life of sacrifice.

And our sexual appetites are definitely one of those areas God has asked us to deny ourselves in.

5:3 certain sexual practices, should not be even named amongst us

Eph 5:3

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

A. Paul gives a list of sexual sin:

1. Fornication

The top of the list is fornication. (Sex outside of marriage.)

- Fornication is not an act of love. It is an act of lust, it is insensitive and self-gratifying.
- A person is insensitive to the feelings of guilt that will be imposed upon the other person. They are forcing their will and desires on them.
- They are thinking mainly of the momentary pleasure.
- How mistaken the world and Hollywood are on this issue!

2. all uncleanness

All uncleanness. (akatharsia) We are familiar with the word catharsis, so put the negative prefix 'a' before it and you have the word akatharsia, which means "uncleanness morally or physically".

3. covetousness

The strong desire for something that belongs to someone else.

Paul gives us other detail lists of sexual impurity in other scriptures:

Gal 5:19

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are:

(1)adultery, (2)fornication, (3)uncleanness, (4)lewdness,

1 Cor 6:9

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither (1)fornicators, nor (2)idolaters, nor (3)adulterers, nor (4)homosexuals, nor (5)sodomites,

B. let it not even be named among you

These things are the signs of a lack of true love, of the agape sort.

C. as is fitting for saints

These things have no place among those who are saints.

These things should not even be mentioned or suggested by believers.

5:4 sins by using the mouth to speak**Eph 5:4**

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

A. neither filthiness

This is the only time in the Bible this Greek word is found.

But it is translated in the English exactly as it is in the Greek.

- “**No sexually filthy speech**”.

B. nor foolish talking

This is the only time in the Bible this Greek word is found.

But it is translated in the English exactly as it is in the Greek.

- “**No sexually foolish speech**”.

C. nor coarse jesting

This is the only time in the Bible this Greek word is found.

But it is translated in the English exactly as it is in the Greek.

- “**No sexually inappropriate joking or telling of sexually dirty jokes**”.

D. which are not fitting

What is the proper way to speak as children of God?

Those children that are following Jesus’ example, **should talk as Jesus would talk.**

Paul said earlier something very similar:**Eph 4:29**

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.**

1 Peter 4:11a If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God.

E. but rather giving of thanks

Joyful, fruitful, peaceful, edifying speech.

Gal 5:22

22 But **the fruit of the Spirit** ... **joy, peace, goodness,.....**

5:5 Lose of inheritance or reward**Eph 5:5**

5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

A. For this you know:

Common knowledge to all men, especially to believers.

B. that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater,**1. fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man:**

This is a repeat of verse 3, (fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness)

2. who is an idolater

But now, Paul adds that the real sin is the sin of "**Idolatry**", making sex your God.

C. has any inheritance (i.e. rewards believers receive) in the kingdom of Christ and God

This is not saying you are not going to heaven.

You have to be a "Child, or Bride" to receive an inheritance.

But, there will be a lacking in an "inheritance" or "rewards" in heaven.

Rom 14:11-12

11 For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."

12 **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**

2 Cor 5:9-10

9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

1 Cor 3:11-15

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Cor 9:24-27

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but **one receives the prize?**
Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

25 And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable **crown**.

26 Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air.

27 But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, **I myself should become disqualified.**

This is not talking about Paul losing his salvation and not making it into heaven. But, it is talking about not gaining the crowns and rewards that God desired to give to him.

1. Various CROWNS that will be given out at the “Bema” seat:

2 Tim 4:8 *(crown for living a faithful righteous life before God unto the end)*

8 Finally, there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

James 1:12 *(crown for giving into temptation)*

12 Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

1 Peter 5:4 *(crown for being a faithful Shepherd/Pastor)*

4 and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will **receive the crown of glory** that does not fade away.

Rev 2:10 *(crown for enduring persecution)*

10 "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, **and I will give you the crown of life.**

Rev 3:11 *(crown for enduring being a last days believer)*

11 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, **that no one may take your crown.**

2. Various REWARDS:

Matt 5:11-12 *(rewards for standing firm during persecution)*

11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.

12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, **for great is your reward in heaven**, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matt 6:1 *(rewards for giving; tithes and offerings)*

1 "Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matt 6:4

4 "that your **charitable deed may be in secret**; and **your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.**

Matt 6:5-6 (*rewards for praying*)

5 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

6 "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and **when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

Matt 6:16, 18 (*rewards for fasting*)

16 "Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. ... 18 "so that you do not appear to men to be **fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.**

Luke 6:35 (*rewards for loving your enemies*)

35 "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; **and your reward will be great,** and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.

Col 3:22-24 (*rewards for working unto your earthly employers as unto the Lord*)

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

3. On the Days the rewards will be given out!!!**Matt 16:27**

27 "**For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.**

4. God wants you to have a full reward, lacking nothing, "not be disqualified"**2 John 1:8**

8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but [that] we may receive a full reward.

5. Not all receive the same reward, but will have rewards according to their faithfulness, so walk in submission and obedience.**1 Cor 4:2**

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

Luke 19:17

17 "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because **you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**'

Luke 19:18-19

18 "And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

19 "Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

Rev 19:7-8

7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and **His wife has made herself ready.**"

8 And **to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright,** for the **fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.**

6. Some will not be equally ready**1 John 2:28**

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

1 Cor 3:14-15

14 If anyone's work which he has built on [it] endures, he will receive a reward.

15 **If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss;** but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

2 Tim 2:11-12

12 If we endure, **We shall also reign with Him.**

If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

He will deny us the rewards that we could have obtained if we had lived righteously and obediently to Christ.

Jude 1:20-23

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

22 And on some have compassion, making a distinction;

23 but others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**

7. What are actual 'Heavenly' rewards?

I think this might be **the type of "eternal body"** we might receive.

Rom 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which **shall be revealed in us.**

Paul says, right before verse 18:**Rom 8:16-17**

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and **if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.**

D. Question, do Christians sometimes live sexually immoral lives?

The answer is yes.

1 Cor 5:1-5

1 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, **and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles**--that a man has his father's wife! 2 And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, That (i.e. because of the fact) his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.**

Even in such a time as this BIG of a sin, "greater then even most unbelievers would ever partake in", Paul still does not question his salvation.

This sinful guy, in a similar way as in 1 Corinthians, is not going to be judged alongside of non-believers, so God is going to bring an early judgment on him "NOW" in this present time.

1 Cor 11:29-30

29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

1 Cor 11: 32

32 But **when we are judged**, we are **chastened by the Lord**, that we may **not be condemned with the world.**

Conclusion
