Intro: 1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 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. 5 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. 7 Therefore do not become partners with them.

The Two key verses in Ephesians are 2:8, 9 and 5:1.

• We going to close out the last few lessons with how our moral conduct should reflect Christ to the world of sin. We will be dealing with some absolutes that have seem to be forgotten by the church. Let’s never forget that the Church was founded on absolutes.

I. We should walk in God’s steps of love, why? – 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

a. Because Christ gave all of Himself for us

• The phrase “he gave Himself for us” not only does it mean the He just died only for us, but it also includes everything that goes before His death. We have a football term we use a lot when a player gives His best effort in a game, “he left everything on the field”. This is what Christ did for us, he pour out everything he had for us, in other words he left everything on the field.

° 4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Titus 3:4-6

b. Because Christ sacrifice please God

• The idea here is not that God got pleasure out of his Son suffering, but instead that God was pleased that his wrath was not going to be poured out on mankind again. He did that with Noah, but now God’s wrath was poured out on His Son, and now we have redemption through Christ. Remember what it felt like to smell fresh baked bread, or fresh brewed coffee in the morning, or smell Grandma’s fresh baked cookies right out of the oven. That calmness you felt, the ease that came over you at that moment. This is what the Paul is saying here.

° 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. Philippians 4:18

II. We should walk in God’s the steps of His morality – 3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as *is proper among saints*.

a. Yes there are moral absolutes

• The next time someone asks you that there are no absolutes, ask them if they are absolutely sure that there are no absolute morals. The truth is that we know that there are, the problem is we don’t want to face it. That would mean we will need to change some things and we don’t want to do that. There are absolute morals we should all live by.

° 5 For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, 2 Peter 1:5

b. We are not to reject these virtues – “must not even be named among you”

• He mentions sex and all impurities, but in the next verses he mentions more impurities. Let’s not just focus on the sex impurities, but let’s not forget that “all impurity” covers more than one. Our walk must include the rejecting of “all the above” immoralities, not just one.

° 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Colossians 3:8

III. We should walk in God’s steps of cleanness – 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, *which are out of place*, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

a. Filthy language is a sign of an immature Christian

• I’m sure if you were to ask someone if they have never cussed before there will be a very very few that will say they have not. Even Peter swore when confronted if he knew Christ. Paul is saying to us here is that as Christians we should not engage in language that will not bring glory to Christ name. Fresh water and bitter water can’t come from the same well.

° 70 But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” 71 But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” Mark 14:70, 71

b. Replace your filthy talk with praise talk

• If you ever want to drive out the bad habits, start replacing them with good ones. The more you put praise in your mouth the less you will say bad things, words, and dirty jokes. The more uplifting you do to someone the less you will spend tarrying them down. Encouragement is better than discouragement.

° 21 So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts. Ephesians 6:21, 22

IV. We should walk in the steps of God’s warning – 5 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.

a. Sexual immoral people will not inherit the kingdom

• Oprah these are not my words this is straight from the perfect, inspired by the Holy Spirit, word of God. Any immoral sexual activity will not get into the kingdom of God, period. You are not going to change the word in order for it to fit your way of life. Changing the word of God will then make it no longer the word of God, so you still will not get in, period. This ranges from pre-marital sex to homosexuality and all that is in between.

b. There are deceivers among us

• There are those that will tell us that sex outside of marriage is normal, natural, that affairs are healthy, and that homosexuality is accepted with God. Wrong, wrong, and wrong again. It is only inside the marriage between the man and woman the bed is sacred.

° 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Hebrews 13:4

V. We should walk in God’s steps of living different – 7 Therefore do not become partners with them.

a. We should not be partners with the world

• When this scripture says “do not become partners with them” it means exactly that. Some would say their biblical culture did not have a high complex economy like we have today, so we are exempt from this verse. Wrong! As Christians we should never partner with people that will damage our Christian walk. No investing in playboy, or becoming partners in a bar, or owning stock that will bring a bad example to the Christian Church. You can invest in stocks that are not sinful. It is not that impossible.

° 22 He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ Luke 19:22, 23

b. We should be followers of Christ

• So, if we aren’t partakers of this sinful world, then we should be followers of Jesus Christ. You will either follow the world or you will follow Christ. It really is that simple. We want to complicate it, muddy the waters so we can live with our sin, but it is the clear waters of Christ we should be drinking.

° 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Matthew 16:24