

Ephesians 5:1-6

God's Words on Love and Purity

- > We are told to "be imitators of God" in verses 1. See if you can expound on that thought by rephrasing it in your own words: Follow God's example in all areas of life by thinking and doing what He would do in every situation.
- > How does verse 2 say we should walk in love? Live in a way that shows the same love by which Christ loves us.
- > What things are we told not even to be associated with (vv. 3-4)? Sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, improper jokes.
- > What do individuals who are characterized by the things mentioned in verses 3-4 face (v. 6)? The wrath of God.

Application

In many ways, our culture is the opposite of this passage. Love is focused inward rather than outward, and the sins that we are told to avoid are accepted as normal.

- > Why do you think our culture has distorted God's purpose of love and sex? The sin nature desires to please "self" and do things as "we" want, even if that means twisting God's purposes.
- > What are the consequences of distorting God's purposes for love and sex? We ruin what God has intended for us, we become unable to have healthy relationships, we rob God of glory, etc.
- > In what ways can our culture impact a Christian? It can put pressure on believers to want to blend in, which will either drag us down, or help us to realize the importance of taking a strong stand.

Does our love for people reflect Christ's love? Do our actions and speech reflect a purity that honors Christ? Love and sex are big topics in our culture, and for that reason we must be willing to show the culture what true love and purity look like!

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