

Ephesians 5:3–7 **"How Saints Battle Sexual Sin"**

What's the difference between believers and unbelievers, when it comes to sexual sin? What is an appropriate way to talk to your children about it? Pastor leads his family in tomorrow's "Hopewell @Home" passage. In these five verses, we learn that a believer's new nature is strengthened against sexual sin by thankfulness and weighty joy. A hearty keeping of the first and third commandments leads to a healthy keeping of the seventh.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via tinysa.com/hopewellarp)

Ephesians chapter 5 beginning in verse 3 and going through verse 7, these are going towards. About fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness. But it not even being named among you. As is fitting for saints neither filthiness nor. Foolish talking nor course jesting. Which are not fitting. But rather. Giving a thanks.

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. Let no one deceive you with empty words. For because of these things. The wrath of God comes. Upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore. Do not be partakers.

With them.

So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant work.

So he says, Not even to name some things. Because we're saints because we are holy because we have been bought by Christ's blood and we have been set apart to God we belong to him now and our inconvient with him now we've been reconciled to him that was the the big problem of Adam's sin he brought us under the wrath of God he and all of our sins deserve the wrath of God as this passage says in verse 6 that it is because of these things that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience, but the story of, Ephesians so far has been that God loved before the world began, he loved his love upon those who were going to be sinners intending to save us by Jesus to the praise of his glorious grace that he planned that in the course of time in the course of history he would glorify his grace by saving sinners through Jesus Christ and now that we have been saved now that we have been brought in here by the blood of Christ now that we have been joined to Jesus and seated in the heavenly places.

We are supposed to be those in whom the grace of God is displayed. Riches of his grace to use a phrase that with which he talked about this. The riches of his grace would be displayed that we would walk in good works which we were saved by grace and created new in Jesus to walk in them which means that we don't walk like the nations and he started this and chapter 4 verse 17, you should no longer walk as the rest of the nation's walk no you can't walk the same way as everybody else because you've been set apart.

You've been consecrated God has reserved you to himself as holy and that's what the word saints means people who have been reserved set apart saved by God for himself and are now holy and he says you have to walk according to what is fitting for your condition as people who

are saved and holy and set apart unto God now there are two commandments in the first table of the law.

The first and the third you shall have no other gods before me and you shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. That if we are following them that will be the means by which the Lord keeps us from breaking the seventh commandment you shall not commit adultery and he says but fornication and all uncleanness their covetousness let it not even be named among you and how sad and alarming it is that in the churches there are so many who fall into the sin of lust not only with what they do.

On the internet not only with what they do in their hearts as they look at others and. But even many having relations before they get married or committing adultery after they get after they get married and these are things that shouldn't even be mentioned in the church they should not be realities in the church.

I know lots of pastors who talk about these things as if well the church is not really that different from the world and and therefore it's not surprising that the church is full of these things no it is surprising. It should not be that way he says no fornicator or unclean person or covetous man, who is an idolater has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

And. There are those who. Who want believers to be able to have their I'm I'm not perfect just forgiven. The only difference between me and then is that that I've got Jesus righteousness counted for me and they don't and I'm so grateful as I struggle along just like those the in sinning just as much and as unbelievers do the that I can I could trust that Jesus has saved me as a bunch of malarkey.

That is the empty words that verse 6 is talking about that deceive believers because for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience, therefore do not be partakers with them we should not be. Satisfied content to have the same mindset and commit the same sins watch the same shows enjoy the same jokes browse the same websites engage in the same behavior as the unconverted people do their identity is in their sin, are we sinless no?

But our identity is not in our sin, what is our identity it's there at the end of verse 3 as is fitting for saints. So how do you fight against these sins? Because saints are fighting against these sins, remember that tug of war that we've been talking about and the second half of chapter 4 saying give no place to the devil and don't grieve the Holy Spirit.

Holy Spirit is on your side, he's against the devil don't grieve the spirit be in league with the spirit fight against the devil. Well, how do you do that well it starts in and this is not gonna be surprising the heart and the mouth. Says so don't do any of these things verse three and verse four but rather giving of thanks now giving him thanks is exactly the opposite of covetousness right giving of thanks says I am glad that God has God and he is good and everything he decides for me is good and a portion he's a signed to me is good and the providence that he's assigned to me is good confident says well I sure wish God wasn't God.

Because I think I should get a different portion and I wish I had different Providence. I even caught myself minute ago is feeding you guys food that I'm not supposed to eat on my diet and I started I wish I could eat not coming to this that's not fitting for Saints verse 3.

What verse 4 giving of thanks. I'm so thankful for what I get to eat. I did say, you know, it would be enjoyable to eat what you're eating. But you have to guard against covetousness in your heart where you wish your lot was different and the way to do that is to be continually giving thanks seeing everything and in everything.

God's goodness to you. So you'll be thankful. It's very hard to be covetous and thankful at the same time, isn't it? They're exact polar opposites. But it is that spirit of desiring more for yourself or outside of what God has given you. It's that that spirit of that desire that leads to self-indulgence whether it's in small things like food and drink and entertainment and you know, not that entertainment is bad, but, That we should choose our recreations based on what helps us.

Learn neighbor more. Because we're always to be heading toward heaven because we're saints we're set apart for that. So, So little self-indulgences will reinforce in our hearts the this. This desire to satisfy our impulses and and not caring about what God is doing and not being thankful for Jesus and thankful for His Spirit and thankful for sanctification and thankful for the heaven that are sanctification is getting ready getting us ready for if we're not thankful for those things then they will not matter that much to us and you know, you know what you do with things that don't matter very much to you.

You joke about them. Every once in a while. I hear you know, a husband or a life joke about some flaw of his wife or her joke about a flaw that's a terrible thing. Your husband or your wife voice when when you grow up will be your greatest earthly gift from God.

I remember. In in the EPC church that we were in and we were in a Sunday school class. I was I'm still starved to this day. I don't even remember her name. His name was Brian. And he just picked up. He thought he was a comedian.

Well people do that and they do that with God. They'll tell jokes about Jesus. I'll tell jokes about heaven and get into the pearly gates and and they take these great and wonderful and holy things and make light of them. And the marriage had between a husband and wife as a holy thing.

It is to be held in honor says Hebrews 13 and kept undefiled. So that it's not good to tell. Boy girl jokes. And to make light of things like even romance let alone sexuality. And so the, The way of talking here they says nor filthiness don't talk in such a way where you snicker a little bit about how dirty something is or foolishness, or course joking those things are not fitting what should we be doing what should make believers my house we should we should want to make one another smile as we talk right because I oh, you don't want us to have a sense of humor, oh I do.

I do want to have conversations in which we all end up smiling and laughing but how do we get there? Is it by course joking or is it by giving thanks? What wonderful happiness making smile making laughter making conversations, we would have if we were continually pointing out the great things.

God has done and giving thanks and helping one another give thanks yes. Victoria. Sexuality refers to how God has made men and women physically different so that when a man who was of one sex and a woman who is of another sex when they get married he's designed them so that they can come together in a special way and some people call that having sex and the whole idea of what happens in a marriage is called sexuality and people get curious about it outside of marriage and that curiosity is not good.

There's a very famous Christian man on the radio, he said who taught people when I was a little boy that that curiosity no. That curiosity is good when you are married for something to be you and when you get married to be curious about and figure out with your husband but not to be

curious about and figure out about yourself by yourself and certainly not to be curious about and figure out with someone else who is not your husband, okay?

John what is sex mean? I just told you you weren't paying attention you should have listened to the answer to Victoria's question because it was an important question an important answer we'll talk about it later. We'll talk about it later it's okay baby you I know how it is you get a question in your head and you don't want to forget your question so you don't listen to any talking until you get called on and then you ask your question because you don't want to say, oh I forgot we'll talk about it later, okay.

So there is an approach to how we talk. That will shape our hearts for what we will treat as very important and honorable and be serious and careful about that's really the third commandment isn't it that we should not speak lightly of the Lord our God and that there are things that the Lord our God has created in his image our his graded us and his image and there are things that he has built into his creation that are closer or further representative everything in in creation in everything in creation.

God teaches us something. About Himself, but marriage is one of those things. In which he gives a picture of himself and covenanted love and mutual adoration and affection and exclusivity one only for the other the way we are created only for God the way God is committed to himself within the trinity.

And therefore, this is a this is a place where we should not be like the people of the world. I was listening to a preacher this morning who said how sinful it is that Christians are more embarrassed of appearing to care too much about these things. Someone tells a dirty joke in the Christian feels embarrassed not to laugh at the joke because people will think they're weird.

And we're more worried about that than we are about the danger to our heart and to our soul to our marriage to our children to the church to the culture to the world.

In this kind of sin that enters in. Even through coarse joking. And through self-indulgence.

And yet it's. One of the most or the most destructive of sins. And so he says, Don't say oh it's okay. It's not a big deal. It is a big deal. You're a saint. You've been set apart by God for himself. Even set apart by God for so much more than the world could imagine having.

Don't let yourself think and speak and act like they do. But think about what is fitting with Saints and don't let anyone in the church tell you different. What I've just been talking to you guys about and how I have been talking to you is something that many people in my former denomination.

I don't know if our new one they would have been very offended. Oh how legalistic? Well learning how to love God with with mind and mouth and behavior is not legalism that's just what saints do that's what Christians do. As we respond to him who has loved us and saved us and as we as we treasure what he treasures and and are thankful for what he is bringing us to.

But we know from verse 6, don't we? That even 2,000 years ago when the apostle wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus. There are already people speaking empty words. That sounded like Christians saying that's no big deal. And he said let no one deceive you with empty words.

For because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. So yeah only have to watch out for covetousness and self-indulgence and course talking and treating

lightly those things that are important in serious. You also have to sadly. Watch out for those in the church.

Who will tell you that you don't really need to be so concerned about those other things. Well may the Lord who has bought us by his blood and joined us to himself and given us his spirit as a seal unto the day of redemption blessed to us his word so that we will be careful about these things and think into act according to what is fitting for.

Saints let's pray. Father I thank you for this portion of your word. I thank you that my children have had the opportunity now to hear it open. Then for all the other times, you've given us to be able to talk about similar things. But I pray that your spirit would use your word that.

That they would be spared. From all manner of wickedness and harm. Don't let anyone deceive them with empty words. I pray Lord grant to them to obey the command not to let themselves be deceived. By empty words. But do bring glory to your grace in Jesus. As you make us whom you have called saints.

To walk in the good. Good works, which you prepared beforehand and for which you have created us to you in Christ Jesus and his name we ask it. And then.