

Ephesians 5:1-20

Extra Questions and Commentaries

"No filthiness" (5:4)

- What other advice did Paul give about speech in Colossians 4:6?

- In the following, underline the effects of gracious speech.
 - Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment. NIV
 - Proverbs 15:4 The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. NIV
 - Proverbs 15:7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools. NIV
 - Proverbs. 15:23 A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word! NASU
 - Proverbs 16:21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and pleasant words promote instruction. NIV
 - Proverbs 16:24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. NIV

"Walk as children of Light" (5:4)

- Underline practices that help us to walk wisely:
 - Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. NIV
 - Psalm 119:37 Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. NIV
 - Psalm 119:101 I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. NIV
 - Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. NIV
 - Haggai 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. NIV

- Think of some thought/behavior with which you struggle. Which of the above verses, if any, can help with that struggle

"deceive you with empty words" (5:6)

- What deception did Jesus warn against? Matt 24:4-5,23,24

- What did Paul say about deception? Galatians 1:8-10

FYI: Empty words "Some forms of Gnosticism...held that such practices as the apostle here condemns were irrelevant to the spiritual life, because they had to do with the body whereas the spiritual life was concerned only with the soul. In addition, it is plain from some of Paul's other letters that his converts in certain places were apt to be misled by the argument that freedom from the law implied freedom to sin - to sin in order that God's grace might abound the more (cf. Romans 6:2)." - F. F. Bruce

Light (5:8)

- What do you learn about Jesus and light from the gospel of John?
 - John 1:3-5

 - John 1:9

 - John 3:19-21

 - John 8:12

 - John 12:35-36

 - John 12:46

"All things become visible when they are exposed by the light" (5:13)

- Underline what God is able to expose:
 - Psalm 90:8 You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. NIV

 - 1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. NIV

 - Ecclesiastes 12:14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. NIV

FYI: "Disgraceful even to speak of the things" (5:12)

Dr. John MacArthur adds that...

Some things are so vile that they should be discussed in as little detail as possible, because even describing them is morally and spiritually dangerous. Some diseases, chemicals, and nuclear by-products are so extremely deadly that even the most highly trained and best-protected technicians and scientists who work with them are in constant danger. No sensible person would work around such things carelessly or haphazardly. In the same way, some things are so spiritually disgraceful and dangerous that they should be sealed off not only from direct contact but even from conversation. **They should be exposed only to the extent necessary to be rid of them.** Some books and articles written by Christians on various moral issues are so explicit that they almost do as much to spread as to cure the problem. We can give God's diagnosis and solution for sins without portraying every sordid detail. Our resource for exposing evil is Scripture, which is the light (Ps 119:105, Ps 119:130; Pr 6:23; He 4:12, 13). (MacArthur, J: Ephesians. Chicago: Moody Press) (Bolding added)

Warren Wiersbe adds that while we are to **expose** deeds of darkness...

Ephesians 5:12 gives us a **caution**. Be careful how you deal with the **unfruitful works of darkness**. The motto today seems to be, "**Tell it like it is!**" And yet that can be a dangerous policy when it comes to exposing the filthy things of darkness, lest we unconsciously advertise and promote sin. Paul said, "**It is a shame even to speak of those things**" (Ep 5:12)... I recall a friend in youth work who felt it necessary to read all that the teenagers were reading "*in order to understand them better*," and it so polluted his mind that he himself fell into sin.

**It is not necessary for the believer to perform an autopsy
on a rotting corpse to expose its rotteness.**

- preceptaustin.org

"The days are evil" (5:16)

- List some of the characteristics of men in the evil days to come. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (What kind of "religion" will they have? Vs. 5)

"Always giving thanks" (5:20)

- What amazing example of praise did Paul and Silas give in Acts 16:23-26?