

] Those Things which are Done of Them in Secret [

Ephesians 5:1 – 13

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~ If you are a child of God, then your light is going to have to shine in this dark world, my friends. These challenging reports from our Spiritual Safari are designed for one purpose and one purpose only: to take the entire Word of God and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in sound doctrine to every country in the world. The epistle to the Ephesians has brought us some terribly difficult and uncomfortable lessons; and this report is going to be another very, very harsh lesson — but they are lessons that even the most devout saint needs to revisit and relearn from time to time. In our last report, we learned that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of God unto the day in which we are delivered to the Lord Jesus Christ in redemption. We also saw exactly how the Spirit of God indwells each and every believer — and how the Holy Spirit works — or doesn't work in our lives. When the Holy Spirit is grieved in our lives, then there is absolutely no way He can work in us or through us. We're still saved from the very moment we trust Christ, and we will never lose our salvation; but it is possible to lose all of your rewards in Heaven. That's all critical information and, if you haven't read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now.

If we want the Holy Spirit to work and produce fruit in our life, we are going to have to put away all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, malice and evil speaking — and even evil thoughts; otherwise, we can know very definitely we are harboring a grieved spirit that will never — *EVER* — produce any good fruit. Again, those things don't mean we lose our salvation, and they don't mean God disowns us as His child; however, they might be an indication you have never been saved in the first place! Further, if you have those things in your life, then no one on the outside will ever know you're a child of God; and the lost, unsaved person is never going to be led to the Lord by you under those conditions — and no one is going to believe you are a child of God, either. It won't matter how many times you tell them; they won't believe you. Only being kind one to another, being tenderhearted and forgiving one another, as Christ has forgiven us, will ever reveal who we are in Christ Jesus. See, these truths are for believers, my beloved. Our

economy is not “*an eye for an eye*” dispensation; and it isn’t to forgive so that we can be forgiven, either. No, we’re to forgive because God has *ALREADY* forgiven us....

1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.

~ So, chapter five brings us the truthful and factual analogy that the church will be a bride of Christ someday – emphasis on “*will be*” – as in, future! Today, we live in the time of the engagement of the church. The marriage takes place in Heaven before the Lord Jesus returns to establish His earthly Kingdom. During the engagement period, our Christian conduct has a definite bearing upon our life on earth; in light of the fact that we are to be presented to Christ as His bride in the future. Christ alone can present us to Himself without spot or blemish; and that should be a highly compelling dynamic for chaste conduct right now. Mainly, we are to walk in love as Christ has loved us....

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

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

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

~ This list of sins and misdeeds are the things that are prevalent among unbelievers today. Each of them represents different low forms of

immorality. Paul is saying that a truly born again child of God cannot habitually engage in this type of conduct. Even a slight indulgence in these activities should bring the genuine Christian great agony and distress of their souls. See, if you can get into sin, and it doesn't trouble you then, my friend, you're not saved; because that would be impossible. If there is no conviction in your heart immediately upon falling into these wicked ways, you aren't a child of God. The Prodigal Son will want to rise from that pig-pen of life and go to his Father; but a pig will be happy at home down there in the filth of the world.

Now, when we confess our sins, we don't bundle them up and hand them over to Him as a wholesale bag of mysterious mixed goods. I just happen to know that even the most devout believer will become entangled in these sins from time to time. When that happens, we need to spell them out in detail clearly to the Lord. If you have a gossiping tongue that has hurt people, tell God that's exactly what you have done. Christ is our Holy High Priest, it is imperative to come clean with Him and admit the ugly truth about all those things we do. Only when we do that can we maintain close fellowship with the Father.

Tell God all that is in your heart just as you would tell your best friend your pleasures and pains. Tell God your troubles that He may comfort you. Tell God your joys that He might sober them. Tell God your longings that He may purify them. Tell God your dislikes that He might help you to conquer them. Talk to the Lord about your temptations that He may shield you from them. Show God the wounds of your heart that He may heal them. Lay bare in prayer your coldness to others and your indifference to good and your depraved taste for evil and instability! Tell God about your self-love, which makes you unjust to others, and how your vanity tempts you to be insincere. Talk to the Lord about how your pride disguises yourself to yourself and to others. If you will thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs and troubles, there will never be a lack of what to talk about in prayer. You'll never exhaust those subjects because they are continually being renewed. People who have no secrets will never exhaust their conversational subjects; because they talk from the abundance of their heart, without consideration for saying exactly what they think. Those types of friends never have the need to weigh their words; because there is

nothing to be held back. Blessed be they which attain to such unreserved intercourse with God Almighty! I think that's the single greatest need of a whole bunch of believers right now.

Some people rightly think it's unbelievable a Christian would commit these sins. Well, *EVERY* church in this world has these members; some more, some less – but all have them. Some of them may begin to feel that they have committed an unpardonable sin – but they haven't. There's always a way home to God — through confession and repentance! So, with that thought in mind, let's take these issues that Paul the apostle is talking about here ad seriatim and in their fullest detail.

Fornication is viewed as a sin that's not particularly egregious today. It's portrayed as sophisticated and intellectual on television. It's glamorized so heavily it appears healthy to permit adultery in a marriage. Well, the gross immorality of our present age has manufactured yet another new morality – which means *NO* morality. The filthy conversation that goes on in religious circles is putrefying. People seem to view internet access as nothing in the world but a porn-hub for hook-ups. The social landfill garbage dump of human thought and emotional media is a veritable cesspool of sexual innuendo. It ruins every healthy relationships it touches in this world. When your computer catches a “virus” – that's *EXACTLY* what it is – and it's almost always sexually transmitted. You may not view porn and screen-perversion as actually engaging in sex – but I have bad news for you: it's uncleanness of your mind; and it is covetousness in the worst way. Jesus said, *“if you so much as look upon a woman to lust after her you have committed adultery with her in your heart.”* I know many people laugh at my theological position regarding the Word of God; and that's good – because if they agreed with me, then there would be a problem! May I say to you? – I'm staying with the Bible all the way, my beloved. If you're living in fornication, as outlined here in an unconfessed and unrepentant lifestyle, then you cannot be a child of God — impossible!

“All uncleanness” Paul mentions here includes all forms of immorality and abnormality. Covetousness is a grasping desire; but it's not limited to money or material wealth. It could even be the desire to be mentally superior to others in a carnal and secular way. Maybe you covet a home or

a position. Many in Christian work must have that positional title of chairman or president or something like that — or they're not going to get involved. Covetousness is idolatry. Paul says that in Colossians chapter three verse five. Covetousness means we are after everything for our own selfish end; whether it's money, or sex, or a job — or anything else. It means to try to garner all the honors of this world that you can possibly accumulate. Some missionaries and ministers who would never attempt to get rich, sure do covet their position. Some even covet their people. Frankly, that's worse, because covetousness is the more damaging sin; and it is the most prevalent trespass in the church.

Those types of sins are not to even be named among us. That means merely approving of them, or having them in your desires, or not correcting them in sound doctrine when they appear in someone's life, is sin for you. *"Filthiness"* speaks to utmost depravity. It includes filthy living, filthy thinking, filthy manners, disgusting table manners, and filthy speech. *"Foolish talking"* means gloating or bragging about sinning. I used to work at a place where the main topic on Monday morning centered around how drunk everyone got over the weekend. Surely you know people who boast of their conquests in the realm of the opposite sex. Both men and women do all of that, friends! *"Jesting"* doesn't mean we're not to have good, clean fun and appropriate humor; I'd sure be guilty if that were the case — but — this means to make light of sensuality and immorality. We're talking about telling dirty jokes and dirty stories. If you're in that business, my Christian friend, it's time to get out of it.

"Giving thanks" is regarded in the context of Christian conversation. It means to speak uprightly when everyone else around you is profaning and cursing, by the way. It also means to maintain your composure when those around you are lying and gossiping about you and breathing threatening overtures. Some people naturally swear and curse when they talk. Others are so-called Christians; and they may not curse, but they sure can speak lies and hate about us. That's when we are to praise the Lord and thank Him. Is that difficult to do? — You bet your life it is! I realize the things I write in my reports don't sit well with most people; but no one is saying these truths anymore today — and I promise you that, not only do I not mind saying them — I intend to balance the budget down here while I am

still alive. No one – and I mean *NO ONE* – is going to stand in front of the Lord and accuse Andrew C. Hunt of compromising His Word.

If it's not already abundantly clear, then allow me to re-overstate the obvious: the man who practices these sins has no portion in the Kingdom of God. To live in the corruption of the flesh is to place yourself beyond the pale of a child of God. To practice these things without confession and repentance is to declare that you do not, and have never known, the True and Living God - the Lord Jesus Christ - Whom He hath sent. I don't care who you are, what your testimony is, or how many theological degrees you hold, or how many committee seats in the church you occupy; and I don't care if you've been ordained a thousand times – if you engage in *any* of these activities, then you can know very definitely that you are demonstrating to the lost world that you do not know Christ, and that Christ does not know *YOU*. Now, I am not speaking out, at, or about, any particular person I know; I am telling you what the Bible says about this topic. If your heart is convicted – good. That means it's time for you to get right with God, and make your peace with Jesus – period.

In view of the fact that the wrath of God will be poured out on the unregenerate person who harbors these sins, it is only natural that a child of God cannot participate in them, nor with those who do. If we will not judge ourselves down here, my beloved, God will judge us; and He makes no apologies for doing so. Paul said, “... *if we would judge ourselves we would not be judged.*” When we are judged of God, and chastened of the Lord, it is done so we will not be condemned with the world. God judged David quite harshly, you will remember. David stepped over the line with adultery and murder – but – the most serious offense David committed was numbering the people when God had specifically told him not to. That sin of numbering the people revealed David's unbelief; and demonstrated to the nation that he did not trust God. Think about that for a few minutes. See, if you can sin while believing you are a child of God, but the Lord is not correcting you – then you're not a child of God – you are in darkness, my friend. In fact, you *ARE* darkness – because God doesn't chasten or correct the devil's child; and in Christ is no darkness....

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

~ So, this leg of our Spiritual Safari concludes in the light; and we can all thank God for that. I have repeatedly cautioned you readers that these reports were going to become downright ugly. Well, here we are – and this report is but one example. Some things don't look so wonderful under a bright light. We need to carefully consider our former state, prior to our conversion. We were not only *IN* darkness – we *WERE* darkness! Have you spoken to an unsaved person lately? They are very dark. They're not eager to get into your light.

Paul has marked out the characteristics that *always* accompany light. Goodness, kindness, righteousness, moral rectitude and *T-R-U-T-H* – which refers primarily to sincerity and genuineness concerning learning and teaching sound doctrine from the Word of God. It's not easy to do that. You might think it is easy – but you're wrong. This means every day of the week – all day – not just on Sunday and Thursday night Bible study. It means sixty minutes out of an hour; and one hundred sixty-eight hours every week. We are to have no fellowship whatsoever with unfruitful works of darkness.

Now, the believer is *NOT* to attempt becoming some sort of reformer; but, by shining the light of Christ in their life, He will rebuke the works of darkness. Light reveals what darkness conceals; but darkness is never

driven away by preaching at it! Only by the presence of light is darkness dissipated. If we don't have a life to back up our profession, we have no light. Too many preachers tell others, "*you shouldn't do that.*" Friends, I get hate mail from people all day long saying I shouldn't say most of the things I do say – but they don't have any light. I turn on the light of the Word of God, and I am saying what is right in these safari reports — that which God calls right. Doing that always causes the rats to run for cover; and, if you catch one by the tail, he might bite you. The good thing is the birds come out and sing when the sun comes up. I don't feel like I can state all of this adequately to you dear readers; maybe I have already said too much? Well, let's all test our own life today and prove to the Lord that we are in His light, and walking well-pleasing to Him ~

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