



Seven core commitments of membership that matters (Eph. 4-6).

- 1.) Unity (v. 4:1-6) ... 2.) Ministry (v. 4:7-16) ... 3.) Growth (v. 4:17-32) ... 4.) Kindness (v. 4:25-5:2)
- 5.) Today – Every member is committed to purity (v. 5:1-20).

1.) Purity is set apart from immoral _____ behavior (v. 3).

- "...sexual immorality..." – This word involves every form of sexual sin.
- _____ is the only proper context for sex (Hebrews 13:4).
- "...any kind of impurity..." – uncleanness, homosexuality (Rom. 1:24-27)
- "...greed..." – Covetousness – An excessive craving; an inability to be content and satisfied with the necessities of life and ministry (Eph. 4:19).
- "...not even a hint..." = "...must not even be named among you..."

-- Consider the intensity of sexual purity to which God calls the church. 3.) A life of immorality is headed for _____ (v. 5).

- Anyone who has received God's mercy has also received His might.
- While we will never be saved because of our good deeds, our good deeds are proof that we have, in fact, been saved (Luke 6:43-44).
- **Sexual immorality and immoral speech are evidence of lostness.**
 - Paul is not talking about particular moments of sinfulness, but an overall _____ of sinful living.
 - Regardless of anyone's profession of Christ, if the sins of v. 5 are his pattern, then He is almost certainly separated from Christ.

4.) A life of immorality is a life of _____ (v. 5).

- "...such a man is an idolater..."
- A sexually immoral lifestyle very assertively says this: "God is not satisfying enough for me; I must have sex right now as well."
- Covetousness in general declares: "God is not an adequate treasure; I must have the fleeting things of this world as well."

5.) A life of purity is _____ completely with God (v. 4).

- Remember the critical role of replacement in true change (Eph. 4:22-24).
- _____ is God's plan for overcoming immorality.
 - v. 4 – "...but rather thanksgiving..."
 - Even as Paul commands us to put off six sins (sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness, obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking), he calls us to replace them all with one virtue – thanksgiving!
- **How does thanksgiving replace these vices?**
 - Immorality and covetousness are rooted in ingratitude.
 - Gratitude is the belief that God's way is always the best way (Romans 8:32).
 - True gratitude is the response of a heart that is entirely satisfied in Him who alone is entirely satisfying (Psalm 73:25-26).
 - Once we really know who we are and what we have been given in Christ, we will be so delighted in Him that the sinful pleasures of this world will have no power over us at all.

Conclusion

- *What do your speech and behavior say about your affection for Christ?*
 - *Are you seeking to be completely satisfied in Him, or do your daily choices declare that you think He is not enough for you?*
 - The purity of your walk reveals the true affection of your heart.
 - Being part of the body of Christ means being committed to _____ before God for His glory.
- Not one of us should be involved in any sort of sexual impurity.
- "...because these are improper for God's holy people."
 - Acts of sexual immorality are vile for those in the church, because the church is the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).
 - As the body of Christ, we must, by the power God gives, set ourselves apart from immoral sexual behavior.

2.) Purity is set apart from immoral _____ (v. 4).

- **There are essentially two attitudes are forbidden here:**
 - a.) _____ – "obscenity... coarse joking"

-- This refers to people who are so filthy inside that they cannot keep from treating everything on the outside as filthy as well.

b.) _____ – “...*foolish talk*...”

-- This refers to the person who is so shallow and superficial that he treats everything as trivial.

-- **Our words are the surest _____ of our hearts (Luke 6:45).**

-- While none of us will ever be perfect in our speech, purity of speech is clearly demanded of the church by God (v. 4).