

Week 17: "Accountability Time"

Day One: "Sinful Lifestyle"

Read: Ephesians 5:5-7

Reflect: Can you call yourself a Christian if you believe the right things but behave sinfully?

Dig: Ephesians 5:5 begins with a connecting word, the word "for." What ideas or flow of thought does this word connect?

List the three adjectives the author uses to describe sinners in verse 5.

What summary word does the author use to describe such people?

An "idolator" is simply a person who puts something or someone in place of God as their first love. Therefore, how are immoral, impure and greedy people idolators?

Apply: What competes for first place (god) in your life?

Ask God to destroy your idols.

Week Seventeen: "Accountability Time"

Day Two: "Hell is Real"

Read: Ephesians 5:5-7

Reflect: Do you know so-called Christians who have false assurance, that is, they think they have eternal life but have no biblical basis for their assurance?

How would you describe their lives?

Dig: According to the first part of Ephesians 5:6, what is Paul warning us against?

Look up I Corinthians 6:9-10. List the sins that Paul mentioned here in this passage:

What deception is Paul warning against in I Corinthians 6:9-10?

Read Galatians 6:7-8. What deception is warned against here?

Apply: Ask God to deliver you from either believing for yourself or passing on to others any dangerous deceptions or false assurances.

Week Seventeen: "Accountability Time"

Day Three: "God's Wrath"

Read: Ephesians 5:5-7

Reflect: How would you describe God's wrath?

Is there such a thing as a healthy human fear of God's wrath?

Dig: What are the "such things" (Eph. 5:6) which provoke God's wrath?

Look up Romans 1:18-20. According to this passage, what provokes God's wrath?

Look up John 3:16-18, 35-36. What do you learn here about God's wrath and condemnation?

According to Romans 11:22, what two characteristics of God are we to keep in balance?

Apply: In a Christian culture which tends to emphasize the kindness of God far more than his severity, ask God to grant you a healthy biblical balance.

Week Seventeen: "Accountability Time"

Day Four: "Do Not Be Partners With Them"

Read: Ephesians 5:5-7

Reflect: When have you chosen to break off a relationship (or at least limit it) based on moral reasons?

What were the circumstances?

Dig: The last phrase of Ephesians 5:5-7 begins with the connecting word "therefore." What is this word connecting?

Look up I Corinthians 15:33-34. What does this text say about partnership with the wrong people?

Re-read Ephesians 4:17-19. According to these verses, what does Paul insist on?

Apply: What practices, friendships or acquaintances should you re-evaluate based on today's teaching?

Week Seventeen: "Accountability Time"

Day Five: "Lectio Divina"

Read: Ephesians 5:5-7 "For of this you can be sure: no immoral, impure or greedy person-such a man is an idolator-has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them."

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

-- **reading:** you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness: after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.

-- **meditation:** you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life: write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.

-- **prayer:** you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer -- thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.