

## Book of Ephesians

Rhema Bible Study - April 21, 2021

Verses 11 thru 15

### Verse 11

**And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.**

The Christian, who is light, must have no association with the works of darkness. Such works are called “unfruitful” because they bear no fruit for goodness, righteousness, and truth. In addition to not having any association with the unfruitful works of darkness, the Christian is to go a step further and expose them. This will serve to warn others. Satan tries to make the works of darkness appear to be light, but this is a lie that must be exposed by the truth of God's word. Satan, himself, appears as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:14).

Today if a preacher or any Christian for that matter takes a stand against sin they are labeled harsh, narrow minded, and judgmental. They are accused of having a critical spirit for pointing out right and wrong. Right and wrong? Many in the world today say there is no right and there is no wrong. Right is what I want to do, and wrong is what I don't want to do. You are harsh, narrow minded, and judgmental to say that something is morally wrong today simply because the bible says so.

People will say what they will say and who cares? When you speak the truth and point out what is sinful you are simply exposing the works of darkness, and that's part of our job as children of God, and it is especially the job of the preacher.

*Question...do you believe that Christians are speaking out for right or wrong in the world today?*

*Question...as a Christian should you watch television shows that promote sexual immorality?*

### Verse 12

**For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.**

Paul continues his warning. They must keep themselves pure for God. They do this by: (1) refraining from associating with darkness, (2) exposing the author of

darkness—the devil, and (3) refusing to even speak of the shameful sins committed by them in secret: “men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). A Christian must not contaminate his mind with such filth. In so doing, we “abstain from every form of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22), and avoid being influenced by those who are evil (I Corinthians 15:33).

I don't see a whole lot of shame or embarrassment when certain sins are talked about today. In fact I see a lot of people demanding the right to not just commit, but flaunt their sin. Some of the sins which are flaunted today are the same sins that were too shameful to even mention when I was growing up. That is an indictment on the world we live in. It is also an indictment on preachers who for far too long have been afraid to preach against sin; specific sins by name.

*Question...do you believe preachers/ministers/teachers will be held accountable for not speaking out against sin? Does that accountability include the ordinary Christian as well?*

Verse 13

**But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.**

One of the characteristics of light is to reveal or expose. Isn't there a vast difference between things at night and in the day? We stumble in the darkness and lose our way, but in the light all becomes visible. Many hated Jesus and His followers because they exposed their sins (John 3:19), and this is still true today. When one is accustomed to darkness, the light becomes very uncomfortable.

Two people in a room, both unsaved sinners, both talking filthy, and both feeling comfortable doing it. Then, a Christian, enters the room and does not join their conversation and does not laugh at their filth. Without even realizing it that Christian has just shined a bright spotlight on the moral filth of those sinners, and if their hearts are not hard beyond repair, they're going to feel some discomfort. They may say what's the matter with you; why don't you join in; what's the matter with you? Nothings the matter; you feel guilty that's all.

The Holy Spirit just made you feel guilty. The light of God, the light of holiness just exposed your sin. God wants his people to be holy. If we are not, then He does not have a witness in this world. If we are not holy, if we simply join in with the sinful people of the world then no one ever repents. Repent of what? How can they repent when they don't feel any guilt? How will anyone repent if their sin isn't exposed by the holiness of Christians, and by the word of God?

*Question...Do you believe sinners stay away from church because they don't want to feel guilty?*

*Question...what does it say about a church if a sinner comes and does not feel guilty? Should there always be a call to repentance?*

Verse 14

Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

The Lord will not give enlightenment to those who are spiritually dead. Paul said the same thing to the Romans: "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11). The Christian must not slumber. He must be active, and the Lord will gladly give him light.

To lukewarm Christians God says, wake up, and get holy. Let the light of God shine out from you. It will anger some people; some will think twice about their sin; a remnant will repent and receive Christ. But one thing is certain, no one will repent because they are in the presence of a Christian who acts like a lost hell bound sinner.

*Question...can you be a neutral Christian? Can you have no opinion on topics that cause you discomfort?*

Verse 15

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Once again Paul refers to the figure of walking. One can choose to walk in darkness and find much disappointment, foolishness, and death, or he can choose to walk "circumspectly" (carefully) in the light. In so doing, one is walking wisely.

Fools go to hell because a fool is one who rejects Christ. Anyone who does not take advantage of all that Jesus has provided for us through his death on the cross is a fool. Refusing to give up the temporary pleasures of some sin and burning in hell forever as a result is a bad deal by anyone's definition. Someone says 'I don't mind being a fool. Not now, but after two seconds in hell you will mind. Christians should not act like fools.

Let's take a look at the characteristics of a fool...

The Bible is full of scriptures about foolish people. Sometimes we may have seen only a certain type of foolishness; perhaps we've had an alcoholic parent or a family member. When we look at the Word of God, the Lord gives us quite a few characteristics of a foolish

person that can help us better understand the behavior of a fool and learn to avoid certain habits or mind sets.

## **Despises wisdom**

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7*

Fools don't seek wisdom and instruction. This doesn't mean that they don't want to talk about their problems, but you will not see them looking into scripture to apply it to their situation. They may just share their issues with a lot of people and find a counsel that they can pick and choose from.

## **Easily enticed**

*With her enticing speech she caused him to yield,  
With her flattering lips she seduced him.*

*Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter,  
Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver.*

*As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life. Proverbs 7:21-23*

A foolish person can be easily flattered. Because generally foolish people have a high view of themselves, they are hungry and thirsty for the flattery and enticing words that tickle their ears. Typically, these individuals are easily enamored and excited with new people, and can leap into quick decisions, such as a marriage, because someone sounded good!! They can also be the ones who can jump on any bandwagon of Christian success without accessing the soundness of the doctrine or the character of the leader.

## **Slander comes easy**

*Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool. Proverbs 10:18*

A foolish person has no problem gossiping and back-biting when they are upset. The other person's reputation is of no importance. This moment and how the person feels becomes more significant than anything else. If you are on the other side of this and you are hearing someone being slandered, you should be wary of this person. Just as they slandered someone to you, someday you may be the target of their slander. If it doesn't line up with how God tells us to interact with people, then it's wrong in every situation.

## **Loves to be intrigued**

*It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise Than for a man to hear the song of fools. Eccl 7:5*

While fools have no problem slandering someone, they can also easily be intrigued by a person. Since it's all about them and how they feel, a fool is not there to build a healthy community, so they will say or do whatever pleases them at the moment and meets their needs. One can't get too excited about this until the test of time and circumstances has

come and the person is examined under pressure to see how they will respond. Will they decide to vent on someone, or will they show self-restraint!!?

## **Self- expression is especially important**

*A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident. Proverbs 14:16*

*A fool has no delight in understanding, But in expressing his own heart. Proverbs 18:2*

Fools may look strong and confident, but their confidence is based on their own knowledge and ability. While they may quote the Bible from time to time, their knowledge is earthly not Biblical! Since fools are not seeking knowledge and understanding, they can zealously fight for their own view and use the Bible to make their point. They are not going to the Bible to *form* their point, but to *support* their view. They can also speak on things as if they are expressing a doctrine while all along it's their own personal view clothed in a couple of scriptures.

Just because we agree with a viewpoint, we can't take it as the truth or doctrine until we have examined the Bible and can validate its scriptural basis. Sometimes we should even challenge ourselves and find scriptures that are saying it differently to ensure we understand the Bible in its full context not just one scripture in isolation with the rest of the word of God.

## **Repeats mistakes**

*As a dog returns to his own vomit, So a fool repeats his folly. Proverbs 26:11*

Someone can also be foolish because they are not learning from their mistakes. They continue to do the things that jeopardize their relationships, finances, or jobs. They may complain momentarily, but they soon go back to what they used to do as if they have forgotten about the pain and the agony of what they just went through.

Fools are people of extremes; they have a hard time staying stable and moderate in their speech and response to situations. Generally, these people can be interesting and exciting to be around, but if you pay close attention to their lives and their choices, you will see that it is a matter of time before something else goes wrong in their lives due to lack of wisdom and impulsiveness.

Lord we don't want to be fools in any area of our lives. Show us those areas that need change!