

Daily Devotional, June 26, 2020

'Six Things Not Fitting For Saints', (Ephesians 5:3-4, NKJV)

“But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks..” (Ephesians 5:3-4, NKJV)

Our text verses note six things that are not fitting for the saints—those who are set apart, or being sanctified (Hebrews 2:11, 10:14). As a result of God’s present work in the lives of believers, what constitutes godly response and behavior? What sinful things does the Lord desire to be clearly excluded from the life of His people?

“**Fornication**” is sexually immoral behavior, and includes adultery, extramarital sex, sex outside of biblically defined marriage (Genesis 2:24), including premarital sex (Exodus 22:16), pornography, and debauchery (Indulgence of such appetites in social settings).

“**All uncleanness**” includes worldly engagements that do not glorify God. Let all unclean persons remain “**outside the camp**” (Leviticus 13:46), and by way of New Testament application, outside of the place of communion with God.

“**Covetousness**” is prohibited by the Tenth Commandment (Exodus 20:17). It is wanting that which God has not given you. Manifestations are myriad and include in the mind, way of thinking, thanklessness, and actions seeking gain by ungodly means.

“**Filthiness**” is defined as shameless talk and/or conduct, and disregard for impact of talk and behavior on one’s testimony or reputation. Our testimony honors or dishonors God, and leads others towards or away from Him. Let us also note that sin causes shame, which can have the positive effect of bringing us to repentance from sin. “**For godly sorrow produces repentance**” (2 Corinthians 7:10).

“**Foolish talking**” includes bragging, telling tales out of school, breaking confidences, rumors, gossip, and speaking while uninformed (Psalm 141:3; Proverbs 13:3, 21:23; James 1:26).

“**Coarse jesting**” can be innuendos (sexual or intended to insult or tear down) or profane language. There are lots of other words in the dictionary.

Let us heed these wise warnings of Scripture, and not allow any of the aforementioned sins to take root or continue in our lives. Let us pray that we will honor God by doing those things fitting for saints instead. With the divine help.