Sermon Notes for February 22, 2015

Be Imitators of God

Ephesians 5:1-7

Introduction

“Man is the measure of all things.” Protagoras

“What is man that Thou art mindful of him?” Psalm 8:4

Those two statements represent two very different ways of looking at the world. Paul calls us to live by the highest standard possible.

“Be imitators of God”

We are to be like God in love and in purity.

I. In Love. Ephesians 5:2

Live a life of love.

The command to love is found throughout the Scriptures.

- The Great Commandment – Matthew 22:37-38

When we truly love one another, our lives become a fragrant offering – a sacrifice that is well pleasing to God – just like Christ’s.

II. In Purity. Ephesians 5:3-4

Be pure in conduct.

There must not be even a hint of

- Sexual immorality (porneia) – sexual sin of any kind.
- Impurity (akatharsia) – uncleanness.
- Greed (pleonexia) – the lust for more whether money, sex or power.
- Colossians 3:5 calls it idolatry.

Sexual sin is still rampant. It is something we all need to fight.

Be pure in speech.

There should be no obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking.
Instead be thankful.
Sin springs from ingratitude.
It is difficult to give thanks and sin at the same time.

III. The need for moral purity is clear. Ephesians 5:5-7

Listen to the warnings.

- It is improper for God’s holy people.
- It is out of place.
- It is idolatry.
- No immoral, impure or greedy person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- Because of these things, God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.

God’s wrath is active now.

- “Therefore God gave them over...” Romans 1:18-32
- “They perish because they refuse to love the truth and so be saved.” II Thess. 2:10

God’s wrath will be shown in final judgment.

- “They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.” II Thess. 1:9-10

There is hope.

- “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.” I Corinthians 6:9-11

Conclusion

Be imitators of God in love and in purity.
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.
Wear his coat well.