

Ephesians 5:3-20

Study 9: Be careful how you live



Discussion Starter

What are some of the main pressures facing Christians in the way we live?

How difficult do you think it is to maintain a high standard of morality?

Which groups / ages might face particular pressures?

In this passage, Paul urges the Ephesians to be careful how they live, because the days are evil (v.15). Living as we do in an increasingly secular age, we should expect to find Christian living more and more incompatible with the world around us.



Why is Paul writing this?

Why do you think Paul begins to speak of purity at this point?

Why does Paul say there should not even be a 'hint' of sexual immorality (v. 3)?

Thanksgiving is mentioned in vv. 4 and 20. What relevance does this have to Paul's words about immoral conduct? See also Exodus 20:17.

What should we make of Paul's words in v. 5? Is he saying immoral conduct can result in a loss of salvation?

How should we understand the exposing of 'fruitless deeds of darkness' (v. 11)?

What is the key to living well for God (vv. 18-20)?

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How does this apply to or influence us today?

1. Where do 'hints of immorality' - of any kind - tend to come from?

2. To what extent are we desensitised to things which are contrary to God's word? When do we tend to justify certain acts or indulgences?

3. How much attention do we give to thanksgiving, either personally or corporately (i.e. as a church body)?

4. How do we go about exposing sinful living? What are some of the ways in which Christians get this wrong? What is the impact?

5. How often do we pray for the filling of the Spirit? What should we expect to happen in response to that prayer?

6. In what ways do we - on a personal level - need to be careful in how we live?