

**Putting on the New Self:
Speech Befitting Beloved
Children**

Ephesians 5:1-14

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Ephesians 5:1-4

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.”

Ephesians 5:3-4

1. “Sexual Immorality” is a catch all phrase that refers to all kinds of aberrant, immoral, and forbidden behavior.
2. “All Impurity” covers everything else!
3. “Covetousness” is the inordinate desire of more money and things.

Ezekiel 16:30-34

“How sick is your heart, declares the Lord GOD, because you did all these things, the deeds of a brazen prostitute, building your vaulted chamber at the head of every street, and making your lofty place in every square. Yet you were not like a prostitute, because you scorned payment. Adulterous wife, who receives strangers instead of her husband! Men give gifts to all prostitutes, but you gave your gifts to all your lovers, bribing them to come to you from every side with your whorings. So you were different from other women in your whorings. No one solicited you to play the whore, and you gave payment, while no payment was given to you; therefore you were different.”

James 4:4

“You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

Three More Things...

1. “Filthiness” = ugliness or deformity, and usually has sexual overtones.
2. “Foolish Talk” = speech without forethought or wisdom and therefore empty, useless, idle, or foolish.
3. “Crude Joking” = witty but vulgar speech.

And the Point is?

As people who have come to know the unsearchable riches of the grace of God in Jesus Christ, as beloved children of God, we must put away the gods of this world in thought, speech, and action, and we must turn with all of our hearts to the living God who saved us from our sin!

Psalm 33

“Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.”

Psalm 33

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”

Conclusion...

Let us put off all sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talk, and crude joking. And instead, let us put on the praise and thanks of God that flows from a grateful heart, for “praise befits the upright.”