

Behold the Kindness & Severity of Your Father

Ephesians 5:1-14

March 16, 2008

Ephesians 5:3-4

“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 5:5-6

“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

First, the Warning...

- Everyone who is sexually immoral or impure or covetous will go to hell.
 - “...will not inherit the Kingdom of Christ and God” (verse 5)

1 Peter 1:3-5

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Revelation 21:7

“The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

First, the Warning...

- Everyone who is sexually immoral or impure or covetous will go to hell.
 - “...will not inherit the Kingdom of Christ and God” (verse 5)
 - “...because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience (verse 6)

Matthew 5:27-30

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

An Important Distinction...

- *An idle threat is a coercive tactic meant to control other people's behavior;*
- *An honest warning is lovingly making someone aware of a genuine danger.*

Second, the Certainty of the Warning...

- “For you may be sure of this...”
 - The doctrine of hell and the doctrine of the link between fleshly indulgence and hell are certain doctrines.
- Thus, Paul says, “Let no one deceive you with empty words” (verse 6).

Third, the Hope of the Warning...

- For Unbelievers: believe in Jesus Christ!
(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Acts 17:31).

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

“For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

Acts 17:31

God "has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed [that is, by Jesus Christ]; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Third, the Hope of the Warning...

- For Unbelievers: believe in Jesus Christ!
(1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; Acts 17:31).
- For Believers: have faith in Jesus Christ!
(1 Cor. 10:13; 1 John 5:4-5)

1 Corinthians 10:13

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”

1 John 5:4-5

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”