

# “A G-rated Life In An R-Rated World”

**Eph. 5:1-14**

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How do we live a G-rated life in an R-rated world? I’m not going to spend a great deal of time expounding all of the sick, depraved things that are going on in our world. Unless you’ve been living like an ostrich w/ your head stuck in the sand, you know how bad it is:

Pornography is a multi-billion dollar industry in our country, destroying homes, families, marriages, children, everywhere you look. There are more porn outlets in US than there are McD’s restaurants, not to mention internet.

Homosexuals are advancing their agenda in every corner of our country, attempting (successfully in some places) to have elementary schools teach materials that tell young children that this lifestyle is OK. “I Have 2 Mommies” “My Daddy’s Roommate” We were enraged when Ellen came out, but now there are homosexual characters on several network shows.

Network television continues its downward spiral, hitting new lows in recent weeks with shows like “Temptation Island” and “The Shield.”

Even churches are impacted by all sorts of sexual misconduct with pastors and ministers having affairs, members committing adultery and fornication, children being sexually abused by adults that they thought they could trust. Roman Catholic church has had all sorts problems. Then there was a 1,200 member church in Ohio whose pastor “came out of closet”, disclosed to his church that he was gay, divorced his wife of some 25 years by whom he had fathered 3 children. Church’s response – standing ovation! “We were relieved! Thought he had cancer or some other life-threatening disease.”

It is sickening to think about how “R-rated” our society is! It is even more sickening to see how many people are falling into the traps that Satan is planting all around us. It is tough to live a “G-rated” life, a “God”-rated life. But that is exactly what we are called to do in this passage of Scripture.

Jerry Bridges – The Pursuit of Holiness – “In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson declared that one of the inherent and unalienable rights of men is the ‘pursuit of happiness.’ Professing Christians must be brought to realize that the preeminent desire and demand of G for us is that of the continual pursuit of holiness of life, and the reflection of [God’s] own holiness.”

Albert Edward Day – “We Protestants are an undisciplined people. Therein lies the reason for much of the dearth of spiritual insights and serious lack of moral power.” Where are those who desire to live lives that are different, that are godly, that are set apart and holy? Scriptures tell us: **“But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.”** (1 Pet. 1:15) – What are we doing with that verse? Or... **“For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law but under grace.”** (Rom. 6:14) – What are we doing with that verse?

How about- **“Make every effort to live at peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord.”** (Heb. 12:14) – What are we doing with that verse?

A couple of more.... **“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”** (Ro. 6:6) – What are we doing with that verse? **“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...”** (Col. 3:5) – What are we doing with that

verse?

**“Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather train yourself to be godly.”** (1 Tim. 4:7) – You now know the question...What are we doing with that verse?

Let’s look at verses 3-4. Paul enumerates some specific R-rated things that are definitely ways of the world: “Sexual immorality” – “porneia” – refers to all sexual sin. It is the opposite of “enkrateia”, which refers to self-control. “Impurity” – “akatharsia” – more general term, referring to anything that is unclean and filthy.

Jesus used this word in Mt. 23:27 to describe the rottenness of decaying bodies in a tomb. The other 10 times used in NT it is associated with sexual sin. The word also refers to immoral thoughts, passions, ideas, fantasies, and any other type of sexual corruption.

iii. “Greed” – inseparable from impurity. Usually associate greed with money. But we must realize that every form of sexual immorality is an expression of the self-will, self-gratification, and self-centeredness of greed.

Greed tells us that we must have more than we have right now and that we must do anything it takes to get more, including sacrificing marriages, kids, careers, friends.

Paul goes on to talk about **“Obscenity, foolish talk, or coarse jesting”** – still tied to Paul’s discussion of sexual immorality. One of the Greek words used here is the word from which we get the English word “moron.” What does that tell you about those folks who tell the crude, dirty jokes, or have sexual innuendo-filled conversations?

What does Paul say should be our reaction to these ways of the world? To pick up verse 1, if we are to be “imitators of God” and “Live a life of love”, then there must not even be a “hint” of these things in our lives. They are “improper for G’s holy people.” Why?

Because when you made a commitment to Jesus Christ, you made a commitment to live a holy life, a separated life, a life that is completely unlike the ways of the world. Rom. 10:9 – **To “confess Jesus as Lord”** means to agree with Him that He is going to be the boss of your life. Not your passions, not your desires, not your greed. They are “out of place.” The reason that they are out of place in our lives is that He is supposed to be “in place” in our lives.

Verses 5-7 are a warning from God. Living here in Indiana and growing up in Florida, we had tornados. Had live radar on cable TV system. Warning siren just a couple of blocks from my home. Spent many an hour in the hallway because of those sirens. I’m thankful here in Indiana I have a basement. In Florida I didn’t I remember the feeling of immediate fear that gripped me when that siren would come on. Knew that there was the potential that something terrible could happen to me, my family, my friends. But the siren also gave us the opportunity to prepare.

These verses here act as that tornado-warning siren did – they warn us that something terrible could happen to those who continue to practice these deeds of immorality and impurity. Those who continually and habitually practice a sinful lifestyle will not be a part of God’s kingdom. They will suffer His wrath. I’m not talking about an occasional act of sin, I’m talking about those whose basic life patterns are characterized by immorality, impurity, and greed.

“But wait a minute, Joe. I prayed a prayer when I was a child. Doesn’t that count?” It does, IF you did more than just pray a little prayer. It does, IF you surrendered your life completely to Him. It does, IF you truly yielded your life to Him as your Lord. It does, IF He is your only God.

The Christian life is so much more than just praying a prayer and getting your "fire insurance paid up." Chances are that your fire insurance is NOT paid up if this is all you have done. Titus 2:11-14 – **The grace that saves us is also the grace that teaches us to deny our selfish sinful natures and live self-controlled lives.** This is why Paul says in 2 Cor. 13:5 to **“examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.”** Is there evidence in your life that you belong to Christ? Are you sinning with less frequency?

“A Christian is not sinless, but he does sin less.” – Warren Wiersbe said.

Are you growing more concerned about the things of God and how you can please Him with your life, how to “walk worthy of the calling you have received”?

verses 8-14 speaks to the way we are to live. We were once darkness. Not just “in the darkness”, but actually darkness personified. When you come to know Christ, you take on the very nature of Christ, which is the nature of light. John 8:12 – **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”** So the way for us to live is to “live as children of light.” Forsaking our old nature, and living the way our new nature says for us to live.

2 Cor. 5:17 – **“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”** What does it mean to live as children of light? It means living a life characterized by goodness, righteousness, and truth – v. 9 Find out what pleases the Lord – v. 10. Have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness anymore – v. 11

In conclusion, remember the tornado warning siren? Sometimes that warning would come in the middle of the night. Because they loved us so much, my parents would wake up my brothers and me, moving us to a safer place.

Look at v. 14b. because God loves you so much, He issues His warning once again. Isn't it time to wake up and recognize the danger of living in the darkness? Sure, it's tough to live a G-rated life in an R-rated world. Much easier to simply give in to the selfish passions that the world says is OK. But we pay a high price in doing this. Those who are Christians face the discipline of God. but remember this: Those who are not Christians face the wrath of God.

Let us pray!

Pastor Joe