

Ephesians 5:5-6

We just saw where certain things will get us in trouble. Immoral acts, impurity and various ways of speaking and language. Paul continues in the next few verses by tell us what the consequence of that bad behavior will be. He starts out by telling us that what is coming next is for certain and guaranteed for certain.

1. There is a life style that will not inherit Heaven – vs. 5 We see here that contrary to what the world says, not everyone who says they believe there is a heaven will go to heaven.
 - a. **Believers vs. non-believers** - [1Co_5:9](#) I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people-- [1Co_5:10](#) not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world.
 - b. **Immoral** - [1Co_5:1](#) It is actually reported that there is sexual **immorality** among you, and of a kind that is not tolerated even among pagans, for a man has his father's wife. [1Co_7:2](#) But because of the temptation to sexual **immorality**, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. [2Co_12:21](#) I fear that when I come again my God may humble me before you, and I may have to mourn over many of those who sinned earlier and have not repented of the impurity, sexual **immorality**, and sensuality that they have practiced. [Gal_5:19](#) Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual **immorality**, impurity, sensuality,
 - c. **Impure** - [Col_3:5](#) Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, **impurity**, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. [1Th_2:3](#) For our appeal does not spring from error or **impurity** or any attempt to deceive, [1Th_4:7](#) For God has not called us for **impurity**, but in holiness.
 - d. **Covetous** - [1Ti_3:3](#) Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not **covetous**; [2Ti_3:2](#) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, **covetous**, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, [2Pe_2:14](#) Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with **covetous** practices; cursed children:
 - e. **Idolater** – Anything that you put before God is an idol. It can be another person or a thing, or a job. Anything that takes your focus off of God and consumes your attention is idol worship. Be careful of those things that seem innocent but really take you away from God Himself.
2. People are out to deceive you – vs. 6a
 - a. **Let no one** – This is a command of Paul's just like when God said "Let not your heart be troubled" in John 14. It carries several commands in one.
 - i. Let - It is our responsibility to not let someone deceive us. We must be on guard at all times. We are not to do, be, or say things that allow us to be deceived. We must watch what we listen to, watch, engage in and what we focus on that might deceive us. That means even the people we run with. Who do you admire that might be deceiving you?

- ii. No one - We must be on guard at all times to all people. It is imperative that we recognize that society is out to deceive us and to cause us to buy into their perverted world view of who or what God is. Society wants us to de-deify God and make Him a god, little “g” instead of God “big G”.
- b. **Deceive you** – Paul has a habit of making principles very personal. This command to “let no one deceive you” is personal. It is you, each one of us that Paul is admonishing to be on guard against deception. I believe that two important principles are evident here.
 - i. We are all at risk. No one is immune to the efforts of being deceived. We are to be vigilant to look out for ourselves. So often we want to tell others what is wrong with them and their doctrine, that we become deceived ourselves.
 - ii. Deception can come in a variety of ways. Since each of us is different and we all have different desires and needs, Satan can deceive us with different measures. Therefore we all must be careful to watch for the signs of being deceived.
- c. **With empty words** – What are empty words? Are they just words that don’t have any meaning? Are they words that don’t mean what the speaker means? Are they just words of double meaning or confusing meanings?
 - i. Words with no meaning – many times we get into situations that cause us to speak words that really don’t mean anything. We just talk about nothing and say things that don’t really count. When it comes to spiritual things, we must never just “talk” and not pay attention to the words we are saying. We can engage in “idle talk” about the weather or our school, or jobs, but are never to trivialize the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the fabric of who we are and what we are. It is the basis of all our belief system.
 - ii. Words that have multiple meanings – sometimes in an effort to be politically correct, we will use words that can mean more than one thing. We can say, “I believe in God.” Others are usually OK with that statement. However, what does that mean to “believe in God”? Satan believes in God. Satan knows that not only does God exist, but that God is truly the Son of God. Do you tell others that you simply believe that there is a God or that you believe that God is real and lives in your heart, a concept that is difficult for non-believers to understand? We can say that an act of adultery is sin, but do we speak of the consequences of that sin? Or do we just let the other person think it is OK as long as it doesn’t “bother” anyone else.
 - iii. Words that we have changed the meaning of – What used to be called sin is no longer considered sin. Words that used to mean someone had bad or evil morals now mean something different. It is awful that we can’t use some words because the world has changed their meaning for their own purpose. Words like lying, adultery, stealing, gay, and many others.

3. **Because of these things** – vs. 6b What “things” is Paul talking about. He is referring to the list of things that he mentioned earlier in this letter.
 - a. Immorality – sins against our own body;
 - b. Impurity – sins that affect others;
 - c. Greed – sins that affect our relationship with God;
 - d. Filthiness – sins that cause others to reject Christ;
 - e. Silly talk – sins that cause others to stumble and be confused;
 - f. Coarse jesting – sins that break our fellowship with Christ and ruin our testimony with others.
4. **The wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience** – vs. 6c It is critical and vital to our believe system that we understand and believe this statement. God will punish sin. Period. It will happen. This is a basic to our entire understanding of who God is and what God is all about. The world wants us to believe that a “Loving God” is incapable of punishing sin in the way we believe that God says He will. We believe that God is a God of justice and a Holy God. We believe that when God says He will destroy sin, we believe He means what He says. The world says “there is no God,” but if there is a God, He is a God of love and kindness, gentle, meek and mild. They want to keep Jesus as a baby in the manger with no divine authority or ability to be a force in our lives today. They want to make Him ineffective and therefore irrelevant. Most people will give you the privilege of believing in a heaven, but draw the line at believing in a literal hell. Why? Why is it always OK to believe that there are only good consequences and never any bad ones? If God exists, then there must be right and wrong. If there is right and wrong, then there must be a place where wrong is punished or there would be no need to call something wrong. If there is no wrong, then there is nothing to compare right to, so everything is neutral. No right, no wrong, no joy, no sorrow, no need to be kind, no basis for understanding. It is just an existence of mediocrity. Our biggest challenge today is that we need to be telling others that there are consequences to their behavior and that the consequence is death if they are not forgiven for their sins. That is the whole of the gospel. Forgiveness