

## Connected

Things that don't belong here (Self-indulgence disconnects)  
Ephesians 5:3-7

### I. Message – Things that don't belong here

#### a. What to avoid

##### i. Actions of lust

1. He lists just one (singular), but it includes all types of sexual immorality
2. Fornication – v.3
  - a. “3 But fornication...it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”
  - b. The Father's love is self-sacrificing
  - c. Satan's counterfeit is self-indulgent
  - d. Fornication (sexual immorality) is the most common self-indulgent activity on earth and has always been
    - i. The word fornication includes all type of sexual sin
    - ii. It carries the idea of a lack of desire-control
    - iii. Fornication is desire, out of control (lust)
  - e. Paul says there should not be a hint of this in church
    - i. “let it not be once named among you”
    - ii. Sexual self-indulgence does not become saints!
    - iii. That is no longer you!
    - iv. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

##### ii. Attitudes of lust

##### 1. Uncleanness – v.3

- a. Impurity of thought
- b. “3...and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;”
- c. Word used to describe decaying bodies (rot, stench, maggots) and...
- d. Also used scripture to describe results of sexual sin
  - i. Whereas fornication is about self-indulgent acts of sexuality
  - ii. Impurity is more about self-indulgent thoughts

## 2. Covetousness

- a. “which is idolatry” – v.5
- b. Self-indulgent ambition
  - i. The Greek word is pleonexia
  - ii. It refers to a fraudulent fantasy
- c. It may be sexual – Exodus 20:17 (neighbor’s wife)
- d. But it is a basic fantasy that says I deserve better
  - i. More money
  - ii. Bigger house
  - iii. Better wife
  - iv. The quintessential example: David and Bathsheba
    1. David wanted what was not his
    2. Put him on a spiral of sin that he never got off of
    3. Ruined his family and tainted the nation for generations
    4. What David is remembered for
- e. Deceptive covetousness
  - i. It is an attitude condemned repeatedly in Scripture
  - ii. It does not belong here!

## 3. Filthiness

- a. “4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient:”
- b. That which is “disgraceful”, embarrassing, not fit for public consumption
- c. Usually sexual in nature
- d. James 1:21 “rampant wickedness”
- e. “Let it NOT be once named among us”

## 4. Foolish talking (baseness)

- a. Dumb or ignorant speech
- b. Also, amazingly, usually sexual
- c. “Let it NOT be once named among us”

## 5. Jesting

- a. Crude joking
- b. Difference is jesting is not dumb, it is clever
- c. Again, often sexual
- d. Someone who can turn anything into a sexual joke?
  - i. Not talking about flirting with your wife
  - ii. Or having clean fun with your friends
  - iii. Talking about crafty sexual innuendo
- e. **“Let it NOT be once named among us”**

## b. Why to avoid these things

- i. Attitudes and Actions of Lust are **Unthankful** – v.4
  1. “4...but rather giving of thanks.”
  2. Interesting that this is the opposite of actions of lust and attitudes of lust
  3. Intentional choice that displays a totally different attitude
  4. One of the hallmark characteristics of Christianity
    - a. Why would he say this is an opposite attitude to self-indulgent preoccupation with sexual immorality?
    - b. Expressing thanks is one of the most unselfish things a human can do
    - c. **Philippians 4:6**
      - i. If you desire something
      - ii. Ask, with thanksgiving
- ii. Attitudes and Actions of Lust are **Un-Christian** – v.5
  1. Do you expect eternal life in heaven?
  2. These things don’t belong in your life
  3. They are UN-Christian!
  4. A covetous person is pursuing a different God
  5. **Titus 2:11-12**
- iii. Attitudes and Actions of Lust are **Un-profitable** – v.6-7
  1. Don’t let anyone tell you a sensual lifestyle is where you will find satisfaction
  2. Don’t be a partaker with them!
    - a. You are child of God (v.1)
    - b. NOT a child of disobedience (v.6)

- II. Conclusions – what needs to be cleaned up (organized)
  - a. Have we become too comfortable with sexual sin?
  - b. Are our minds committing idolatry through covetousness?
  - c. Is our foolishness coming out of our mouths?
  - d. Are we being unthankful for all that we have?