

Divine Expectations

Ephesians 5:3 – 15

Revival in the Family

- A. Revival to bring to life, spiritually. To reinvigorate from a state of spiritual slumber or apathy, self-will or self-absorption.
- B. In the family to embrace revival in my particular "season of life," i.e., single, married, widowed, divorced.

- 1. Christ-followers are called to live out the expectations of God as a blessing to humanity. Do you see wisdom in the expectations of God for followers of Jesus in vv 3-5?
 - Eph. 5:3-5 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is *proper among saints*. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 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. (ESV)

Have you ever thought that your words reveal the condition of your heart? What about your words among members of your family? Do you think God's word reveals his heart?

• Matt 15:18-20 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. ¹⁹ "For out of the heart [and social media] come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. ²⁰ "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man." (NAS)

Paul's list of unrepentant "don'ts." Do you the expectations of God are too great, like a "bar set too high"?

- 1. Sexual immorality v3
- 2. Impurity of any kind v3
- 3. Filthiness or foolish talk, crude joking v 4
- 4. Covetousness (idol worshipper) v5
- 5. Unfruitful deeds of darkness v 11

John 14:23. If *anyone loves me*, he will *keep my word*, and my father will love him and we will come to him and *make our abode w him*.



- 2. One sin seems "out of place" to me. What do you think? How can we live out the divine expectations of God if there is no distinction in how we live from those who do not know Christ (v7)?
- Eph. 5:5-7 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*. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience [unbelieving world]. ⁷ Therefore *do not become partakers* with them [sons of disobedience]; (ESV)
 - Divine expectation John 15:1 "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser."



This is a photo of a statuette of the goddess Artemis ... as she was worshipped in the city of Ephesus in Asia Minor, currently on display in the Eskenazi Museum of Art in Bloomington, Indiana.



3. Is it possible that Christ-followers can become so engrossed in "fitting in" that the light of Christ is no longer visible? Do you see the divine expectation that we "wake up" spiritually so that Christ can be made visible?

Eph. 5:7, 13-14 ⁷ Therefore *do not become partakers* with them [sons of disobedience]; ... ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, *but instead expose them*. ... ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, *it becomes visible*, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "*Awake, O sleeper*, and arise from the dead, and *Christ will shine on you*."





Call to Action:

- A. Have you found yourself walking in any of the unwise behaviors that Paul highlights in the Scripture? Will you consider the wisdom in your actions and allow the Holy Spirit to move you to a day of decision?
- B. How visible to others is your relationship to Jesus? Your commitment to your church? Why not decide to talk about one or both of them this next week?
- C. Men do you need to re-embrace your Project 5 commitments in your spiritual life and/or the life of your family? Find a brother to pray with you and get back on track.

