

Sermon Text Discussion Notes 12/1/19

Ephesians 5:3-6

How Thanksgiving is the Key to a Transformed Life

Outline

1. What is Entirely Out of Place (verses 3-4a)
2. What is Most Fitting (verse 4b)
3. Why This Matters (verse 5-6)

Quotations

At the heart of the Christian life is thanksgiving, and thanksgiving replaces and pushes out every other sinful attitude and behavior. (Hunter)

Paul lists these three overarching categories of what we need to avoid as Christians. But he doesn't give three categories to match each of them. He doesn't say, "instead, let there be sexual integrity, generosity, and pure speech." He just says, "instead, let there be thanksgiving." (Hunter)

Understanding & Application

1. Why is thankfulness in some ways a summary of the Christian life? How does this relate to the sins listed in verses 3 and 4?
2. What is God's vision of sexual relations? What does the term *pornea* mean and how does it relate to God's vision of sexual relations?
3. Culturally, the Bible's perspective on sexuality has not just become rejected but increasingly viewed as bigoted. Drew shared a few main ideas on how we got to this particular cultural moment, although it is very complicated and interconnected. Interact with these ideas, do you have any other ideas: separating sex from procreation, delaying marriage, sex becoming more individualistic along with some Christians being harsh hypocrites.
4. How are greed and idolatry related? Why did Jesus specify that we need to be on guard against greed?
5. Interact with Drew's statement "So, it's not just that we *have* to get rid of these things... it's that we *get* to" in light of the fact that when God saves us, he gives us two gifts: he forgives us and transforms us.
6. Why is thanksgiving by definition responsive? How do we become more thankful? How is thankfulness the real power for transformation?