Ephesians 5:3-4 - 3 But do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints; 4 and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. NASB

A. do not let immorality or any impurity or greed even be named among you, as is proper among saints – More acts of destructive behavior which are to be put to death. But here notice that these are not “even to be named among us!” These he says are “not proper” for saints, holy ones! Shall God’s holy temple be profaned with devil’s deeds? Shall God’s chosen people be adorned with wickedness and evil? These should not be present in any form in the assembly of the righteous and should be purged(actively removed) from among us!

- **immorality** – fornication, including any sex outside of marriage, adultery, incest, homosexuality, *gk.* 4202. porneia from 4203; harlotry (including adultery and incest); figuratively, idolatry:--fornication.

- **impurity** – uncleanness, moral filth. *gk.* - akatharsia, from 169; impurity (the quality), physically or morally:--uncleanness.

- **greed** – covetousness, unbridled lust, *gk.* - pleonexia from 4123; avarice, i.e. (by implication) fraudulency, extortion:--covetous(-ness) practices, greediness.

It should be mentioned that this is yet another CONTRAST being drawn by Paul. Here it is BETWEEN being “imitators of God and walking in love” which is “pleasing to the Lord,” AND being immoral greedy and impure which is “improper for saints.”

Colossians 3:5-7 - 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. NASB

2 Corinthians 12:21 - 21 I am afraid that when I come again my God may humiliate me before you, and I may mourn over many of those who have sinned in the past and not repented of the impurity, immorality and sensuality which they have practiced. NASB

In this day of visual images and powerful audio/video media, Christians should be warned to put away even the very appearance of immoral and impure temptations. Christian men should never engage in viewing pornographic material as a fixed gaze on a naked or scantily clad woman is surely a sin against the Lord and poison for your soul(Matt 5:28). A Christian man or woman should not engage in viewing television shows or reading magazines/books which present unwholesome and filthy immoral stories and thoughts or ideas and comments about sinful, impure and immoral behavior which the wicked perpetrate against the Lord in the darkness. It is SHAMEFUL TO EVEN MENTION what the disobedient do in secret.

Matthew 5:28 - 28 but I say to you, that **everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her** already in his heart. NASB

B. and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks – Here the apostle will deal with holiness of speech. He tells us what is improper in our words and what should rather fill our mouths. Christians must not only be imitators of God in actions but also in speech. This is imperative, not just a suggestion, as he says, “**THERE MUST BE NO**”........

- **filthiness** – obscenity, morally or sensually dirty words. *gk.* - aischrotes, from 150; shamefulness, i.e. obscenity:--filthiness

- **silly talk** - foolish talking - *gk.* - morologia, from a compound of 3474 and 3004; silly talk, i.e. buffoonery:--foolish talking.
coarse jesting – harsh joking or jeering - gk. - eutrapelia, from a compound of 2095 and a derivative of the base of 5157 (meaning well-turned, i.e. ready at repartee, jocose); witticism, i.e. (in a vulgar sense) ribaldry:-- jesting.

It is imperative for Christian to have holy speech which edifies and builds others up, not that which jeers, wounds, and tears down or destroys. Even when making light of things, we are not to use speech which is negatively charged, impure, or unwise. This again the apostle says is “not fitting” for saints. But rather what is fitting is the giving of thanks, which we do far to little of.

**Proverbs 15:2** - 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly. NASB

**Matthew 12:34** - 34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart. NASB

**Ephesians 4:29** - 29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear. NASB

**James 3:4-7** - 4 Behold, the ships also, though they are so great and are driven by strong winds, are still directed by a very small rudder, wherever the inclination of the pilot desires. 5 So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and yet it boasts of great things! Behold, how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell. NASB

**Ephesians 5:5-6** - 5 For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an 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. NASB

A. For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God - Here Paul says we are to “know with certainty”, that is absolutely and positively, that NO ONE WHO PRACTICES THESE SINS WILL ENTER HEAVEN. The inheritance is likened unto the full possession of eternal life in heaven with God (Eph 1:18). Here Paul points to three specific lifestyles. The emphasis here is on people who practice these sins on a continual basis, or possess these as a lifestyle, not single occurrences where someone has fallen. Know with certainty that the wicked shall not inherit the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**immoral person** – a fornicator, gk. pornos, a (male) prostitute (as venal), i.e. (by analogy) a debauchee (libertine):--fornicator, whoremonger.

**impure person** – an unclean person, gk. akathartos, impure (ceremonially, morally (lewd) or specially, (demonic)):--foul, unclean.

**covetous man, who is an idolater** – a greedy person, gk. pleonektes, holding (desiring) more, i.e. eager for gain, (avaricious, hence a defrauder) covetous.

This is nothing new to the New Testament, scripture makes this same declaration over and over again.

**Hebrews 13:4** - 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge. NASB

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** - 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, shall inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you; but you were
washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God. NASB

**Galatians 5:19-21** - 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarned you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. NASB

B. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience - Paul here warns the church, “Let no one deceive you with empty words.” What he is saying is what I have told you is true, don’t let anyone tell you otherwise. In fact he says, “because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.” These are the very things that have plunged creation into death and despair, it is because of these things that people go to hell. One cannot possibly think that they can live in these deplorable sins and be member of the household of God or enter His kingdom.

**Colossians 3:5-6** - 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come. NASB

**Revelation 21:8** - 8 “But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” NASB