**May 13, 2018 “Not As Unwise But As Wise” Ephesians 5:15-17**

The other day I was in Culvers for lunch and as I typically do, I watch people. I usually look to see how many people eat their lunches while looking at things on their phones. It amazes me to see a couple come in to eat, sit down across from one another and not say two words to each other during the entire meal because both of them are looking at something on their phones.

I see this family come in with three children, ages 6-3, I guess and as I am watching them, I had an opportunity to watch the children. Now let me start off by saying that these kids were not unruly or loud but they were acting like children. One would stand on the seat and the other would see if one standing on the seat was taller than the one standing on the floor. As I said before, they were not bad kids, nor were they acting in a bad way, they were just being kids having fun.

The reason I bring this up is because the passage of Scripture that is before us today manifested itself in my mind as I watched these children interact with one another, with their parents and with others around them.

Ephesians 5: 15-17

Now I know that I have told you this before and probably will be telling you this again before we are through the book of Ephesians, that there is a progression in this book that we cannot overlook if we are to correctly understand the implications and applications of these truths in our Christian life.

1. Progression
   1. Ephesians 1:3-12
      1. Who we are in Christ
   2. Ephesians 3:13-21
      1. Strengthened in the inner man
      2. Christ may dwell (live) in your heart
      3. Rooted and grounded in love
      4. Comprehend the love of God
      5. Be filled with all the fullness of God
      6. Our lives will be a living crescendo of praise to God
   3. Knowing all this… this is how you are to walk (live)
      1. Ephesians 4:1… walk worthy
         1. Humility, gentleness, showing tolerance
         2. In unity
      2. Ephesians 4:14
         1. Not as children… going here and there
         2. Speaking the truth in love
      3. Ephesians 4:17-32
         1. Polar opposite to this world
            1. Do not

Have a futile mind

Give yourself over to sensuality

Lay aside the lusts of deceit

Stop lying

Get angry over the correct things and let it go

Don’t steal

Let not unwholesome talk come out of you

Bitterness, anger, wrath, clamor and slander be put away from you

* + 1. Be an imitator of God… how?
       1. Walk in love
       2. Walk as children of light

1. Walk as wise
   1. Proverbs 22:15
      1. Every person is born absent from the wisdom of God
      2. Every person is born with a sin nature
   2. Psalm 14:1… the fool has said in his heart… there is no God
      1. I Corinthians 1:18; I Corinthians 2:14
         1. This does not mean he does know God exists
            1. He just wants to live like God does not exist
            2. He does not want God to tell him anything

Especially if it is wrong

* 1. Proverbs 14:9; Proverbs 15:2… mouth spouts folly
     1. Our world if full of people who espouse some of the most wicked and vile things and call it good
  2. How do I get wisdom?
     1. Proverbs 1:7… the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
     2. Proverbs 1:20-33
        1. Note Proverbs 1:23… I will pour out my spirit on you
        2. Reminds us of Ephesians 3:16, Ephesians 5:18… be filled with the Spirit
     3. II Timothy 3:14-17
        1. Wisdom that leads to salvation
           1. Since you are saved… walk in the light
     4. Titus 2:6-14
        1. Zealous for good works
        2. Does that describe you or me?

Well the Bible doesn’t mention… this particular sin… they are involved in

No it does not mention that… nor does it mention

Heroin

Meth

Cocaine

Stepping out in front of buses

Jumping off of trains

Sunbathing on the freeway

That is foolish… not half as foolish as making excuses for our sins

Be careful how you walk… not as unwise but as wise