

**“BEING A PROPER CHRISTIAN”**  
*Living a Pure Life in the Midst of an Impure World*  
**Ephesians 5:3-7**  
**Pastor Keith E. Gephart**

INTRODUCTION

We are taught many things that make us “proper” in polite society. Yet, often the same parents and teachers who teach us such propriety do not discourage sins of immorality and uncleanness before a holy God that make us **improper and unfitting** before Him.

In this text we see things in life that God says are **proper**—*fitting acceptable*—or that are **improper**—*unacceptable or wrong*.

**THOSE WHO WANT A FITTING PLACE IN HEAVEN MUST LIVE A FITTING LIFE ON EARTH.**

I. IMPROPER “CONVERSATION”

A. Things not to be Named (3)

1. Fornication
2. Uncleanness
3. Greed

B. Things which are not Fitting (4)

1. Filthiness
2. Foolish Talking
3. Jestings—course

C. Things which are not Safe (5-6)

1. No Inheritance

- a. In the Kingdom of Christ and of God
- b. For Wicked Lifestyles
  - (1) Immoral Person
  - (2) Unclean Persons
  - (3) Covetous Man—an *idolater*

2. Divine Wrath

- a. On the “sons of disobedience”
- b. On those “deceived with vain (empty) words”

## II. PROPER “CONVERSATION”

A. Separation (7)

B. Thanksgiving (4b)

I Thes. 5:18; Col. 2:7; Eph. 5:20

## CONCLUSION

**God does not trifle with sin; neither should we!**

A lifestyle like that described in vv. 3-6 leads to **Hell, not to Heaven.**

*REJECT SUCH UNFITTING BEHAVIOR AND TALK; LIVE A LIFE OF  
THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE.*