

THE SMELL TEST EPHESIANS – PART 9

Introduction – Paul appears to be meditating on the book of Leviticus as he writes to the church at Ephesus. According to Leviticus, proper sacrifices are *an aroma pleasing to the Lord* (Leviticus 1:9, 13, 17; 2:2, 9, 12, etc.). The message of Leviticus is: *I am the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy* (Leviticus 11:45).

Leviticus 18:1-5

A. Only Holy People Will Inherit the Kingdom of Christ and God.

Ephesians 5:1-7

1. We must follow the example of God as seen in the sacrificial life of Jesus.
2. Just like Leviticus warns repeatedly there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, or greed.
3. Our conversations must be holy and devoid of obscenities.
4. Let no one deceive you about the eternal destiny of those who practice all kinds of idolatry.
5. Disobedience brings the wrath of God, so we must not be partners with bad behaviors of worldly people.

B. The Choice of Darkness or Light

Ephesians 5:8-14

1. Light exposes our behaviors for all to see, while darkness partially hides them.
2. Living as children of light will result in the fruit of goodness, righteousness, and truth.
3. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness which are shameful to mention.

C. Two Contrasting Fellowships

Ephesians 5:15-20

1. The fellowship of the foolish is filled with the unholy spirit of intoxicants which result in a drunken condition.
2. In contrast the fellowship of godly wisdom is filled with the Holy Spirit that allows us to make the most of every opportunity.
3. Drunks gather to sing coarse songs, waste valuable time, and act out in an undisciplined manner.
4. As the people of God we gather to speak to one another by songs full of thanksgiving.
5. The designated accompaniment to our singing is playing on the stings of our hearts.

Conclusion – God has called us to behave consistent with our new identity in Christ as a holy people. Our lives are the sacrifice we are offering! How do you smell to God?