

### The Calling of Children of Light

*Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*  
*Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),*  
*Eph 5:10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.*

### The Camaraderie of Children of Light

*Eph 5:11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*  
*Eph 5:12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*  
*Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*

### The Consciousness of Children of Light

*Eph 5:14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."*

In the first seven verses of Ephesians chapter five Paul continues his theme of contrasting the conduct and behavior of children of God with those who do not believe God.

Believers are to be “imitators of God.” They are to walk in love, patterning their lives after Christ, who demonstrated what love was all about when He gave Himself as an offering and sacrifice for sin.

The believer who walks or conducts himself in love does not fornicate or do impure things with their body because their body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

The believer who walks in love is not greedy. She is not filthy or obscene. He does not talk foolishly.

The believer who walks in love does not tell dirty jokes but uses his or her speech for the purpose of giving thanks to God.

In Ephesians 5:5 Paul warns his readers that “*no immoral, impure or greedy covetous, money worshipping person, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*”

In verse 6 a warning is given to the believer not to let anyone deceive them with empty or hollow words. Empty or hollow words are those without the substance of truth or reality. These were words according to one commentator (Vincent) “*plausible, but devoid of truth.*” They were designed with an attempt to make something evil seem less sinful by making reasonable excuses for the sin.

This is what goes on all the time on some of the talk shows and reality shows and movies some of us watch.

- A man commits a crime and tries to justify his actions, saying that he was abused as a child.

- A movie depicts it's hero, the good guy, jumping in the sack with the woman whose life he just saved.
- Another movie is about a group of men (con artists and thieves) who steal from a bad guy but are celebrated as the good guys

But the Bible says in verse five of our text that “*no immoral, impure or greedy covetous, money worshipping person, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*”

Then, almost as an afterthought Paul writes in verse 7, “*Don't even be partakers with them.*” He repeats this thought in verse 11 and 12, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*”

If only Christians would obey this truth today. It's ironic that many who profess to be Christians still run with the same crowd they did before they trusted Jesus Christ as Lord. They are not running *after* the crowd to witness to them about Jesus—they are running *with* the crowd.

If you run after the crowd to witness to them, that's a noble act of obedience to God. But you will soon find out over time that when you run to the crowd to witness to them about Jesus, they will see you coming and might run in the opposite direction!

Jesus said a remarkable thing in Matthew chapter 10:

*Matthew 10:34-36 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'*

We have already seen in Ephesians that when you become a follower of Jesus Christ, He changes you.

Your priorities change—

- If on the weekend you hit the clubs, you don't want to do the club scene anymore.
- If you drank and smoke, you don't want to drink and smoke anymore—your flesh may still crave for those things but you know that this kind of behavior doesn't honor your Lord Jesus.

Oftentimes if you hung out with people who did these kinds of things—you will soon find out (if you are living as a Christian ought) that your holy presence will bring them under conviction and they will not want to be around you.

### ***The Calling of Children of Light***

This brings us to verse 8 in our text where Paul gives the reason the Christian should not walk like the unbeliever and hang out with the unbeliever:

*Eph 5:8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

It is interesting that Paul feels the need to remind his readers that they are now Christ-followers.

He did it in chapter 2:

*Eph 2:1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,  
Eph 2:2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,  
Eph 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.  
Eph 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,  
Eph 2:5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),*

In Ephesians 5:8 Paul reminds his readers again and writes, “*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light...*”

The word, “were” is emphatic in the Greek, meaning, the emphasis is on the word, “were.” He is saying, “*You were darkness. So don’t again become darkness.*”

The word, “light” is *phos*, referring to light itself, not a mere lamp or some artificial means of light.

The Bible is letting us know that the Christian is so completely changed and so possessed and penetrated by the Lord is that he or she is not simply an “*enlightened person*” but themselves now light. (*Wuest*)

God has called our church to “*Point the Way to Transformation in Jesus Christ*” and here Paul is declaring to us the ultimate transformation that one can go through—to be once “darkness” but now a child of light!

So Paul exhorts his readers to “*Walk as children of light.*” Remember, the word, “walk” means “to order one’s behavior,” and “to conduct one’s self.”

The Christian is to conduct himself or herself as a child of the one who bore him. The Christian is a child of God, a Christian is “light in the Lord”; so a Christians is “a child of light.”

This begs the question, “Do you resemble your Father?” Do you conduct yourself as one who is born again of the Spirit (John 3)?

Many of us have heard people say things like, “He’s a drunk just like his father was.” Or, “the apple doesn’t fall too far from the tree” or “He’s a chip off the old block.”

How do we measure up when it comes to our Heavenly Father?

Now there are some characteristics of God that it makes no sense to try to imitate. Theologians tell us that God has some *incommunicable* attributes or characteristics about himself that He shares with no one.

- God doesn’t share His attribute of *immutability* with anyone – God doesn’t change this means that He can be depended upon. What He says He will do!
- God doesn’t share His attribute of *self-existence* or *self-sufficiency* with anyone. God doesn’t need anyone or anything to exist. While He desires our love and affection, He doesn’t need it.

- God doesn't share His "*eternality*" with anyone. God had no beginning and will have no end. He is the "Alpha and Omega" the beginning and the end. He is the One, "*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*"
- God doesn't share His attribute of "*omnipresence*" with anyone. God does not have size or spatial dimensions. He is present at every point of space with His whole being. While God doesn't share His attribute of omnipresence with anyone, Scripture tells us that He is a "*very present help in time of trouble!*"

While there are some incommunicable attributes that God does not share with His children, there are some *communicable* attributes that God joyfully shares with His children. He is willing to share His wisdom, love, light, goodness, mercy, graciousness, longsuffering, faithfulness.

So Paul exhorts his readers to "*Walk as children of light*" ... to "to order one's behavior," ... "to conduct one's self like the God who bore them alive in Christ."

Again, "Do you resemble your Father?"

- Do you exhibit and exude the wisdom of God?
- Does His love radiate from your life?
- Does His mercy flow from your lips?
- Are you gracious to people who do not deserve to be treated so?
- Are you longsuffering with people and situations that would normally tick an unbeliever off resulting in unloving or even violent behavior?
- Are you faithful to God, to people, to your church?

Paul tells his readers that if they were children of light, the characteristics of being children of light would be on display in their lives.

Textual Explanation: In Ephesians 5:9 some translations (KJV, NKJV) uses the expression, "*the fruit of the Spirit.*" Other translations (NIV, NASB) read, "*the fruit of the light.*" The difference comes from the Greek manuscripts from which they translate into English.

For the purpose of this lesson, we will be using what is written in the NASB and NIV---"the fruit of the light" as this seems to be the more reasonable translation considering the context and what was just said in verse 8 concerning "light."

Paul has just told us that we are to "walk as children of light" and then he says in verse 9, if you were a child of light you would be producing the fruit of the light.

You see, when you turn on the light in a room, the light that shine isn't for the benefit of the lamp, it is for the benefit of those in the room. Paul is letting us know that Christians let their light shine for the benefit of others who need to see Christ and have their lives transformed.

He writes in verse 9 and 10, "*for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable (or well-pleasing) to the Lord.*"

The word, "fruit" here refers to the moral results of the light. As Christians, we are to be constantly seeking out and discerning and "putting to the test" our actions and behavior in order to assure that our

conduct meets with God high and holy expectations and is a bonifide witness of light for Him in a dark and evil world.

As a child of light, we are to be constantly scrutinizing our behavior to ensure that we are not bringing reproach to the Name of Christ in this world. Sometimes this means asking ourselves,

- “Is what I’m about to do going to bring dishonor to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?”
- “Is what I’m about to say going to bring reproach to my Lord and King, Jesus?”
- “Will where I’m about to go cause someone to think less of Christ, His church or His ways?”

### ***The Camaraderie of Children of Light***

In verse 11 Paul communicates the thought that, “we are to be in the world but not of the world.” In this verse he says, don’t have *fellowship* with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them.

This doesn’t mean that you can’t go over someone’s house who is not a Christian or can’t have dinner with someone who is not a Christian. It means just what it says, You can’t have *fellowship* with them.

Fellowship is the word *konomia* in the Greek. It means to share a common, intimate bond with someone.

In other words, you can’t have a romantic relationship with someone who is not a Christian. You shouldn’t be in a business partnership with someone who is not a follower of Jesus Christ.

Here Paul is dealing with one of the enemies of the Christian in the Christian life and walk of faith.

Remember, there are three enemies, as a Christian, you must contend with on a daily basis—the *world*, the *flesh* and the *devil*.

In Ephesians 5:11 Paul is reminding his readers that they are not supposed to fellowship in the things of the *world*.

The Apostle John says it this way in 1 John 2:

*1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

The world John refers to is the Greek word, *kosmos*, which is more than the millions of people on the planet earth. The *world* is actually an ordered system.

Scripture tells us that Satan is the god of this world system where the fallen angels and demons are his agents, the unsaved of the human race are his subjects. The world is not as much a place as it is a *system* where the purposes, pursuits, pleasures, practices and places have no need for God. (2 Cor. 4:3-4).

We are to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness that occur in this world system. In 2 Corinthians chapter 6, Paul says it another way:

*2 Cor 6:14 Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*

*2 Cor 6:15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?*

*2 Cor 6:16 And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

*2 Cor 6:17 Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."*

*2 Cor 6:18 "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."*

*2 Cor 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

Paul goes on to say in verse 11 of Ephesians 5, “*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather expose them.***” That’s what light does; it exposes things!

Not so long ago, I stay on my job after working hours to do some Bible study and sermon preparation and had to use the restroom. Someone had turned the light off so as I entered the restroom and turned on the light I noticed some waterbugs of assorted sizes running to hide.

Have you ever changed a lightbulb that had burned out months ago and with the new light you see old dirt? That’s what light does; it exposes things!

Thus Paul says, as children of light you and I are to “*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather expose them.***”

This doesn’t, in many occasions, require us to say anything—that is, if we are living close to Christ. If we are living close to Christ, our light is bright and all we have to do is walk into a room and sin and darkness is exposed.

On your job, around the watercooler, where the gossip is being told and the dirty jokes are being shared...when you come over to get some water, they feel the need to quiet themselves because of your “light.”

Then there is the “email watercooler.” If your light is shining, you probably don’t get a lot of filthy email because of your “light” and if someone send you something, this is when Paul’s exhortation kicks in: “*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, **but rather expose them.***”

You expose them not by hitting, “Reply to All” and getting on the sender’s case in front of all his or her email buddies. If possible, you meet with the sender or speak with the person by telephone and lovingly tell them, “*If have given my life to Jesus Christ. He now rules my life and wouldn’t be pleased with me reading that kind of material.*”

Now there are times when I have hit, “Reply to All.” It has been those times when someone has sent something that brutally or lambastically attacks my Savior or spreads some false doctrine about Christ, His Word or His church.

Paul says, “expose them!” This means you don’t have time to be ashamed of Christ and His ways.

- Sometimes, “expose them” means that you speak up about the atrocity of abortion.
- Sometimes, “expose them” means that you speak up about the sinfulness of homosexuality.
- Sometimes, “expose them” means that you speak up about the sin of fornication, infidelity and shacking up.
- Sometimes, “expose them” means that you speak up about the plight of your kids having kids.
- Sometimes, “expose them” means pulling your brother or sister aside, and in private, telling them their sin (John 18:15)

By the way, the New American Standard Bible translates, Ephesians 5:11 as, “*And do not **participate** in the unfruitful deeds of darkness...*”

This means that those of us who claim the name of “Christ-like” need to stop going to the local comedy club and some of the other places that make light of and make fun of sinful behavior.

When you sit under the ministry of these comedians, you participate in the unfruitful works of darkness and Paul says in verse 12, “*For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*”

There are some things that Christians ought not even talk about. Our speech is to reserved for praise and giving thanks to God—is what Paul has already said (vs. 4) In other words, don’t waste your words discussing what Tiger Woods was doing—use them to pray for his salvation.

*Eph 5:13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.*

If you are sitting in a dark room with no windows, you can't see the objects in the room. Even though the objects are there, you aren't aware of them because you're in darkness. However, if someone turns on the light switch, the things previously hidden from your eyes are now obvious.

Don't get angry at people in spiritual darkness for not being able to see what's obvious to you. Instead, bring them some spiritual light. (Matt. 5:14-16) --Kent Crockett

Paul is speaking to believers in this chapter and has let them know that they are not to participate with the unfruitful works of darkness and even speaking about these things is shameful.

Then he writes in verse 13 that “*all things that are exposed*”---what things? All the evil things and the sinful and decadent works (of verse 12) committed by unbelieving sinners—these things will be made visible by the light and when they are, if you are I find ourselves partakers of them, we must be cleansed of them.

The Apostle John in 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:7 says, “*if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*”

### ***The Consciousness of Children of Light***

Finally, Paul writes in verse 14, *“Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.’”*

Paul is more than likely quoting from a portion of an early Christian hymn exhorting the sinning *believer* to awake and arise.

Two commands are communicated in verse 14: (1) Awake; (2) Arise. They must be done in that order and they both must be done.

You can’t “arise” before you are awake—that’s called *sleepwalking*. Sleepwalkers arise from sleep in a state of low consciousness and perform activities that are usually performed during the day. Some have sent emails while sleepwalking, mowed their lawn or cooked complete meals. Others have committed violent acts of crime. There was even the [YouTube video](#) that went viral showing a dog named Bizkit, running in his sleep.

Are you sleepwalking as a Christian? Are you just going through the motions with little or no consciousness of Christ in your life?

Sunday after Sunday you find yourself rising out of bed, getting ready for church, sitting in church listening to a message and then going home only to start your work week as if you had no encounter with the living Christ?

Paul says, *“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”* You must “awake” first and then “arise.”

When Paul uses the word “awake” he is communicating the idea of collecting one's faculties; to waken or to be roused from sleep or a diseased state or activity or inactivity. He is commanding the one who professes to be a Christian to awake from the condition of acting like a pagan.

There are those who say they are believers but are dead in their Christian influence for Christ—like a dead person, they do not *say* anything for Christ; they do not *do* anything for Christ—Paul is saying, *“Awake you who sleep and arise from the dead!”*

God promises in His Word that if the sinning Christian wakes up and arises from his or her dead condition, then Christ will shine on them.

Christ will shine on you with His approval. Christ will shine on you with His favor. Christ will shine on you with His provision.

The goal according to verse 10 is *“trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.”* When you begin to act discerning, seeking to find out what pleases God and then walking in that, you are waking up and arising from the dead---as you do this, Christ will shine on you!

I’ve programmed into my phone and computer calendars to chime every morning with a prayer reminder that says, *“Remember me, my God, with favor.”* The prayer is taken from Nehemiah 13:31 (NIV). I’ve been praying it several days each week for a few years now. God has indeed been answering this prayer.

So here is something you can program into your phone or put on your calendar if you want to see God’s favor: Ephesians 5:14, *“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”*

God wants to bless our socks off with His peace and His provision but He will not bless those who claim to be a Christian but participate in the unfruitful works of darkness. *“Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you.”*