

**Title:** Live as Children of the Light, Part 2

**Passage:** Ephesians 5:1-14

**Introduction:**

“Emperor’s New Clothes”

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Emperor%27s\\_New\\_Clothes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Emperor%27s_New_Clothes)

- Analogy: the world around us is compromising. Are we not called to be counter-cultural to what is clearly wrong?
- ”What is popular is not always right and what is right is not always popular.”

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good

and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Ephesians 5:11

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

*Spiritual Awakenings*

Through history, God calls Christians to rise up and go back to the Word of God.

- Reformation: realization that the Bible says nothing about purgatory, etc.

**Context of Passage**

- Ephesians 1-3: What is the Gospel
- Ephesians 4-6: Implications of the Gospel

Ephesians 5:1

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

*Worldly/Distorted Love*

Ephesians 5:3-7

But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them

**Passage:** Ephesians 7-14

**Overview: Live as Children of the Light (Ephesians 5: 3-14)**

- I. Exalt God, not idols (v. 3-6)
- II. Exhibit fruit of light (v. 7-10)
- III. Expose the darkness (v.11-14)

**I. EXALT GOD, NOT IDOLS (v.3-6)**

Ephesians 5:5-6

For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

- Misperception: Minimize seriousness of sin because God’s love covers all
  - Once saved, always saved (and take for granted or lightly the freedom to act however wish)
- Truth: If do not view sin and the wrath of God seriously, then wonder if actually saved.
  - Once saved, you always want to repent of sin.

## II. EXHIBIT FRUIT OF LIGHT (v.7-10)

### A. *Display light but not joining those in darkness (v.7)*

Ephesians 5:7

Therefore do not become partners with them

2 Corinthians 6:14

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

1 Corinthians 15:33

Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”

### B. *Display light by living out your identity (v.8)*

Ephesians 5:8

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

*“you were darkness”*

- your state before Christ

Ephesians 2:1-3

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

*“were darkness”*

- living a life style totally ignorant of the truth, living a life of sin - choosing your own sin

*“darkness”*

- Satan’s territory and dominion

Luke 22:53

When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

Colossians 1:13

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

*People hate the Gospel because of its light.*

John 3:19-20

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

- Misperception: When accept Christ, am I bound and not free to do whatever I want?
- Truth: You are bound by your sin. Actually not free but enslaved by sin. God's commandments are really boundaries for genuinely blessed living

*“now you are light in the Lord“*

- your identity in Christ

#### Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

#### ***C. Display all that is right and true (v.9)***

##### Ephesians 5:9

(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

#### ***D. Display light by discerning what is pleasing to the Lord. (v.10)***

##### Ephesians 5:10

and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

- natural people (non-believers) don't think about how to please God.

### **III. EXPOSE THE DARKNESS (v.11-14)**

#### Ephesians 5:11

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

- “expose” = correcting and convincing another; confronting darkness
- Quote; “To ignore evil is to encourage it; to keep quiet is to help promote it.”
- Followers of Jesus should be on the forefront of God-issues (do not minimize issues as being merely a “political” one - ex: abortion, racism, etc.)
- As speak out, the basis is the Word of God.

#### Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

- If not speaking out, why so?

#### *Why Expose?*

- call people to Christ.

#### Ephesians 5:12-14

For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

- When we are light, people can realize they are in darkness.

#### *Poem*

You're writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By the deeds that you do,  
By the words that you say;  
Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?  
-Paul Gilbert