

Walk in Light Ephesians 5:1-21

Who, or what, is in control of your life? If our affections are dominated by darkness, we cannot be the light of the world. But if we are continually conquered by the Spirit of God, we will fulfill God's will for our lives - we will shine and others will be drawn to Jesus' light.

Walk in love and light

- Walk in love because you are beloved children
 - Term Father applied to His Son. In classical literature “beloved” carries the idea of being an only child. The idea that God loves each of us in the way He would love an only child – we receive a full measure of His love and devotion.
 - Imitate SON in our relationships. Stop taking, and instead start giving – 4:29-32
 - Motivation: You have been forgiven (release from debt AND give grace)
 - Result: worship; God’s good pleasure
- Walk in light because you are children of light – Eph 5:8
 - Light rarely used literally in New Testament. Mostly metaphorically
 - Light is truth, true truth, ultimate truth; therefore light is life itself.
 - John 8:12. Jesus is the embodiment of light
 - I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly
- Extends this metaphor through the end of the chapter
 - Preceding metaphor about walking = your relationships
 - New metaphor = what is dominating your heart and your life in the world?
 - Light or darkness?

Run from darkness – 5:3-5

- Paul is not saying that genuine Christians can’t behave like the world, but that we shouldn’t behave the world. Why not?
- Not proper (5:3), not fitting (5:4)
 - BDAG – to reach a point of connection
 - 2 Cor 6:14; What fellowship have light and darkness?
 - 1 John 1:5. in Him there is no darkness at all; He can’t give “approval”
- Do not name
 - Ironic: Paul names what we should not name!
 - If any of this fails to shock and repulse, we have a problem
 - Specifically Paul alludes to 3 areas of sin: immorality, greed, drunkenness – vv3, 5
 - 3 types of speech – out of the heart the mouth speaks
- Do not be partakers – 5:6-10
 - On their team; your closest associations
 - Brings “wrath”
 - Displeases the Lord. Surprising that there are things that please/displease God?
 - Your morality doesn’t earn you eternal life
 - Your morality doesn’t keep you from losing eternal life
 - GOSPEL = gift
- Do not participate – 5:11-12
 - Unfruitful – Eph 4:29 (“rotten” fruit)
 - Life controlled by your cravings is a rotten life

- Proper response? Wake up! Ephesians 5:13-14
 - Run! Flee sexual immorality

Reprove the darkness – 5:11, 13

- To expose, convict; to reprove, rebuke
- Critical distinction: Not talking about exposing the sin in the world
 - **1 Corinthians 5:12–13.** For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within *the church*? But those who are outside, God judges....
- Sin in our lives and sin in the body of Christ
- One of the gifts we give to one another is to call out sin. Speak truth in love
 - 4:15, 25
 - This is not “judging” your brother, but discerning and serving
- Resist the urge to call this legalism. This is holiness

Turn up the light – Ephesians 5:14-17

- Redeem the time; buy it back out of slavery
 - We live in a dark world; dark times; Satan wants to destroy.
 - Don’t you want to know God’s good and perfect will for your life?
- Ephesians 5:18
 - Drunkenness may have been a problem; but mostly an illustration
 - Entire being influenced by alcohol – speech, thinking, walking, emotions, choices
- Ministries of the Spirit
 - Don’t talk a lot about the Holy Spirit
 - Harder to understand; Spirit is deferential = glorifies the Son
 - Don’t pray to Spirit. Pray to Father, through Son, by Spirit; facilitator
 - Old Testament – creation, giving us the word of God
 - Holy Spirit is the essential blessing of New Cov
 - Convicts – John 16:8
 - Regenerates – Titus 3:5
 - Baptizes – 1 Cor 12:13
 - Indwells – Rom 8:11; 1 John 4:13
 - Seals – Eph 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor 1:22
 - Illuminates – John 14:26; 1 Cor 2:12
 - Encourages – John 14:16
 - Fills – Luke 1:41 (Old Testament = “came upon”) Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31
 - Languages, boldness to preach, suffer, serve, sacrificially give, go
 - Surrender – your hands, feet, mouth
 - Imperative: something you are responsible to do here
 - Passive: Be filled, be transformed; can’t do this for yourself
 - Confession; break cycle of control of lusts; surrender control to Spirit
 - Filled = walk by the Spirit (Gal 5:16-18, 25; Rom 8:4, 13-16)
- Ephesians 5:19-20
 - Spirit-filled praise
 - Colossians 3:16
 - With thanksgiving. 5:20; 5:4
 - Gratitude dominates rather than greed
- This is our moment to shine. Jesus is the light of the world, as are we. Mt 5:14
- We need worship to dominate our waking hours.
- Spirit-empowered praise; Spirit-empowered thanksgiving
- If this is your only moment of worship throughout the week, it will not transform your cravings.

Application

- Confession
- Surrender
- Thanksgiving and praise