



Children of Light

Ephesians 5:8-17

Children of Light

- Ephesians 5 is all about change. It teaches us that we are different from the world; and, since we are different, we must live lives that are different.
 - In verse 1, we are commanded to live like God.
 - In verse 2, we are commanded to love like God.
 - In verses 3-7, we are commanded to leave this world's ways behind.
 - Beginning in verse 8, the apostle Paul tells us why we are to be different.

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- As we live in this world, we must remember:
 - 1Peter 2:11 - “Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul”
 - Heb. 11:13-16 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Children of Light

- There is always pressure for Christians to be more like the world
- Overt pressure from advertising, entertainment, and other media
- Subtle pressure from people we love
- Pressure from within us from the flesh
 - Even for Christians, there remains a part that chafes under the demands of holiness.

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- Gal. 5:16-17 - “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”
- Rom.12:1-2 - “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

How We Are Changed

- What we were
 - Eph. 5:8 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light”
 - 2Cor. 4:4 - “whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”
 - Eph. 2:1-3 - “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 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, 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.”

How We Are Changed

- What we are
 - Col. 1:13 - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”
 - 1Peter 2:9 - “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”
 - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

How We Are Characterized

- The fruit of the spirit
 - Eph. 5:9-10 - “for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”
- How is it manifested?

How We Are Characterized

- It is seen in goodness - uprightness of heart and life
 - Deals with our relationship with others
- It is seen in righteousness - our standing before the Lord.
 - Deals with our relationship with God
- It is seen in truth - honesty, reliability, and trustworthiness
 - Deals with our relationship with ourselves
- Fruit is the unfolding of life. It is the product of the process of living according to the spiritual man and not the fleshly man

How We Are Commanded

- These phrase “have no fellowship” means “do not be a partaker of or a sharer with.” Christians are not partakers of things that are evil, even by association.
 - Eph. 5:11 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”
- If we are not in the world at all, we cannot teach the lost.
 - 1Thes. 5:22 - “Abstain from every form of evil.”

How We Are Commanded

- Eph. 4:25-31 - “Therefore, putting away lying, Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. 26 Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil. 28 Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. 29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.”

How We Are Commanded

- Eph. 5:4-6 - “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

How We Are Commanded

- 1Cor. 5:9-11 - “I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. 10 Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person.”
- 1John 4:4 - “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

How We Are Commissioned

- Our responsibility to abstain from sin goes farther than simply not doing sinful things; we are commanded to reprove them.
 - Eph. 5:11-13 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.”

How We Are Commissioned

- Light makes things manifest, or easy to see. When we walk in the light, it makes the evil of the world around us more visible.
 - Matt. 5:14-16 - “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

How We Are Called

- Too often we think sinners need to wake up and heed the call. The apostle Paul is telling Christians that they need to wake up and heed the call.
 - Eph. 5:14-17 - “Therefore He says: Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light. 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”

How We Are Called

- Rom. 13:11-14 - “And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.”