

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 5:1-14 – *Called out of darkness into Christ’s light.*

Today’s Message:

“Children of Light”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, Paul contrasted the walk of the lost world with the walk of the born-again Christian. The Christian life is not merely believing differently – it is walking differently. Today, we will continue that theme as God leads us to remember that we should visibly live in great contrast to the darkness of the world we are trying to reach. We will see our *example*, our *separation*, and our *testimony*. God wants us to follow Him and walk in His love, reject the darkness of the world, and walk as children of light. You represent Jesus Christ; you are not children of darkness anymore. This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 5:1-14

A. *Our Example* – Jesus Christ is our great example of God’s sacrificial love.

1. Christians must walk in God’s LOVE and reflect the character of God our Father.

- Ephesians 5:1 – *Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*
- Ephesians 5:2 – *And WALK IN LOVE, as Christ also hath loved us...*

John 17:23
 ... and hast loved them,
 as thou hast loved me.

“As dear children” – identity is found in God; He has loved us as He has loved His Beloved!
 “Walk in love” – God’s love: sacrificial and holy... not emotion, selfish, lust, tolerant of sin
 “As Christ” – love cost Him dearly, involved sacrifice, sought our good, pleased the Father
 “An offering and a sacrifice to God” – this is true love; what a contrast to a selfish world!

Comparing Scriptures

- John 1:12 – ... to them gave he power to become **the sons of God**...
- Romans 8:15 – ... but ye have received **the Spirit of adoption**... **Abba, Father**.
- Matthew 5:48 – Be ye therefore perfect, **even as your Father... is perfect**.
- Luke 6:36 – Be ye therefore merciful, **as your Father also is merciful**.
- 1 John 3:16 – Hereby perceive we **THE LOVE OF GOD**... **he laid down his life for us**...
- 1 John 4:11 – Beloved, **if God so loved us**, we ought also to love one another.

Practical Application

- People should EXPERIENCE the family resemblance of Jesus Christ in your life!
- How do we do this? *Living to please God, loving difficult people, serving without recognition, sacrificing personal comforts, loving truth more than popularity, etc.*

“Walk”
 Daily lifestyle.
 Consistent conduct.
 Direction of life.

John 13:34
 ... as I have loved you
 ... love one another.
 John 15:12
 ... love one another,
 as I have loved you.

Galatians 1:4
 ...gave himself...
 1 Timothy 2:6
 ...gave himself...
 Titus 2:14
 ...gave himself...

“... walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us...”
 Jesus Christ’s love should be visible through your life in the midst of this dark, sinful world.
 Does your life reflect God’s love? Do you give yourself (sacrifice) for others like Christ?

B. Our Separation – the world is void of the purity and love of God.

2. Christians must avoid and reject the ungodly works of **DARKNESS** in our world.

- Ephesians 5:3 – *BUT...let it not be once named among YOU as becometh saints;*
- Ephesians 5:4 – *NEITHER... are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.*
- Ephesians 5:5 – ... *this YE KNOW, that no whoremonger...hath any inheritance...*
- Ephesians 5:6 – *Let no man deceive YOU... because of these things cometh...*
- Ephesians 5:7 – *Be not YE THEREFORE partakers with them.*

1 Thess 4:4
That every one of you *should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

Today's deception
"It is normal."
"Everybody does it."
"God understands."
"It doesn't affect me."
"It is just a game."
"It is just a movie."
"It is just a song."
"It is just one time."

"Fornication (*porneia*)... uncleanness... covetousness" – *all* sexual immorality in *every* form
 "Let it not be once named among you" – God is clear; not normal, accepted, defended!
 "Filthiness... foolish talking... jesting" – dirty, vain speech; *all* forms obscenity, indecency.
 "Which are not convenient" – not suitable or proper for a Christian; can pollute testimony
 "For this ye know" – a high calling; lost people go to hell for these things! *1Cor 6:9-11; Col 3:6*
 "Let no man deceive you" – our culture minimizes sin – this is a serious warning from God!
 "Partakers with them" – refusal to participate, endorse, expose oneself to sinful darkness

Practical Applications (Romans 1:32; 1 Corinth 6:15-20; 2 Corinth 7:1; 2 Tim 2:22)

- **Application areas:** purity in relationships, entertainment, online content, speech.
- **Refuse all sexual immorality.** Any form of immorality (self and unmarried people).
- **Refuse ungodly influences.** Immoral people, entertainment, pictures, videos, etc.
- **Refuse to lust for anything.** Different expressions of uncontrolled appetite (**C #10**).

C. Our Testimony – the child of God must be a visible light in this evil world.

3. Christians must walk as children of **LIGHT** and reprove the works of darkness.

- Ephesians 5:8 – ... *ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord*
- Ephesians 5:9 – ... *the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness... righteousness... truth*
- Ephesians 5:10 – *PROVING what is acceptable unto the Lord.*
- Ephesians 5:11 – ... *have no fellowship with... works of darkness... reprove them.*
- Ephesians 5:12 – *For it is a shame even to speak of those things...them in secret.*
- Ephesians 5:13 – ...*all things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light...*
- Ephesians 5:14 – ...*Awake thou that sleepest...arise... Christ shall give thee light.*

The Christian asks:
Does this please God?
Does this lead to holiness?
Does this honor Jesus Christ?
NOT...
Can I get away with this?

Are you sleeping?
Some Christians are:
Spiritually distracted
Entertained to sleep
Desensitized
Passive

"But now are YE light in the Lord" – salvation changed your identity; live as Jesus said to!
 "The fruit of the Spirit" – God's will – His light produces visible evidence in your life!
 "Proving what is acceptable" – testing, discerning, examining; please God with your life!
 "Have no fellowship" – no communion, no relationship, no familiarity, no association!
 "Rather reprove them" – rebuke darkness, sin; expose sin by truth, holiness, godly living.
 "Awake... arise" – God calls out those who have become spiritually careless; progression

Practical Applications (Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9; Matthew 5:14-16; Rom 6:13)

- **Live what you profess.** Do not just say you are a Christian; live for Jesus Christ!
- **Expose darkness.** Speak the word of God, live a godly life with a good testimony.
- **Awake to righteousness.** God calls believers to wake up! *Isa 51:17;52:1;60:1; 1Cor15:34*

"... Awake thou that sleepest... arise from the dead... Christ shall give thee light."
 Does your life reflect God's love? Are you following Christ's example of sacrificial love?
 Are you walking as a child of light? Does your speech and your life reprove sin or tolerate it?
 We ought to walk so closely with Jesus Christ that His love, purity, and light are visible to others.