

Light In The Darkness – Ephesians 5:1-14

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Just passage, Paul showed us what we relate to each other in Christ. Now, he moves on to how those of us who are in Christ relate to the world around us. He reminds us that we are loved in Christ and that the way we are loved ought to be the paradigm for our conduct, including the way we relate to those outside the of the church. Then he shows them how this plays out in how we relate to sin.

- 1) **The first thing Paul talks about when describing walking in love is how we handle sin. Is this surprising? What is it about sin that makes the way we handle it such a critical component of love?**
- 2) **According to v3-7, how should we relate to sin? How do the ultimate results of sin that Paul brings up here play into how we handle sin?**

To the world they are ok is to encourage them to their destruction. While this may breed their animosity toward us, it should not lead us to war with them. Sin and death are the enemy, not those enslaved by them. Instead, we are to be light to their darkness (v8-14).

- 3) **What is Paul picturing with his contrast light and darkness? How should understand the respective situations of each?**
- 4) **How is it that we are light? How does recognizing where we came from and how we have come to be light shape our hearts toward those in darkness?**
- 5) **What does it mean for us to “expose unfruitful works of darkness”?**

Backing out and looking at this big-picture, let's wrap with a couple overarching questions:

- 6) **What questions do you have about how this plays out?**
- 7) **What has shifted for you in how you think about engaging the world?**

Prayer:

- Let's pray for specifically for grace to love the world as God has loved us in Jesus.
- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens can we help carry?