



Ephesians 5:1-14
Walk in Love Not Sin
Dr. Jimmy Stewart
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BIG Idea:

Children of God live in the light not darkness and walk in love not sin.

Sermon Summary

Children of God must walk on the face of the earth as their Heavenly Father directs them to walk. Beloved Children of God must be imitators of God following Christ's example. Walking as Jesus their Savior and Lord walked. God the Father directs his children to live in the light and walk in love. God the Father directs his children to live in the light not in darkness and walk in love not in sin. Paul continues to build on the gospel message of salvation available to all by defining how God's children are to live in the world.

Scripture:

Ephesians 5:1-14, (ESV) *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, 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.”*

Diving Into The Message

1. Jesus came so that we could know the Kingdom of God and become a part of His family through the forgiveness of our sin. If you trust Jesus to forgive your sin and have asked him to forgive your sin you are a child of God.
 - A. Imitate God (Remember the Priority of Unity Chapter 4:1-6)
 - B. Keep Moving (Remember the Promise of Maturity Chapter 4:7-16)
 - C. Love as Christ Loved us (Remember the Power of Purity 4:17-32)

2. The Unfruitful Works of Darkness are always in contrast and conflict with the Fruit of Light

The Sons of Disobedience against The Children of Light

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness . . .

Impure Thoughts, Impure Words, Impure Actions and Impure People Associated with Darkness.

3. Walk as Children of Light

- A. Let There be Thanksgiving - verse 4
- B. You Have an Inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and God - verse 5
- C. Produce Fruit of Light from All that is Good and Right and True - verse 9
- D. Learn to Accurately Discern What is Pleasing to the Lord
- E. Learn to Effectively Expose the Unfruitful Works of Darkness

Diving Into The Message

Conclusion: The children of God must walk as children of light. They must also walk like Jesus walking in love. Loving others the way Jesus loved them and gave himself up for them. The darkness does not go away. It is always present and must be seen as a threat and dealt with as an enemy of what is good and right and true. Children of God must produce the fruit of light as each walks in love. If you are a child of God how are you walking? Still spending time in the darkness of sin? Your inheritance is in jeopardy. Confess your sin and begin walking exclusively in the light and love of the Lord Jesus. If you are not a child of God, consider trusting Jesus for the forgiveness of your sin and asking Him to forgive your sin. God wants you to become one of His children and he has prepared the way for your salvation in Jesus!

LIFE APPLICATION SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Questions from the Scripture

1. There is much darkness in the world. Sin is found in darkness and the light exposes it! Jesus came so that we could know the Kingdom of God and become a part of His family through forgiveness of sin. Have you been forgiven of your sin?
2. What does Paul mean when he writes to be imitators of God? How is this possible and where would one begin? Verse 1
3. What does Paul mean that those who are children of God should walk in love? Verse 2
4. If you have asked Jesus to forgive your sin then you are a child of God. Your next steps are to begin following Jesus' example and begin walking in the light and walking in love. How is this possible and what would life look like? Verses 1-2
5. Paul directs the children of God not to become partners with the sons of disobedience who participate in the unfruitful works of darkness. What types of partnerships is he warning against? Verses 6-7
6. How should the children of God, who walk in love, expose the sin of the unfruitful works of darkness? Verse 11 At one time you were darkness by now you are light in the Lord! How would partnerships of light with darkness work exactly? Verses 6-8
7. Describe fruit of light found in what is good and right and true. Pray that you will bear more fruit of light in your life! Verse 9