

December 23

Ephesians 5:11 (NIV) ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

When Carol was still working on her library certification, I took some classes with her. One of those classes was a children's literature class taught by the head of that department. The professor's style was very authoritative as he knew the students needed his class to procure a teaching certificate. He would bring armloads of children's books to class so we could discuss them. He made it clear which books he liked and which he thought were useless. Addressing future school librarians, he instructed them on which books to carry. During one class, he brought out some magazines that contained questionable content (nudity, vulgar articles, etc.) He stated that they should include such magazines in the school libraries because students should have access to any information they wanted. As he displayed the magazines, no one, including myself, contradicted him because we felt intimidated.

Paul's words are very pertinent for us today. Because of social media and our being constantly connected, words can spread quickly. Jesus tells us that there are but two sides to this world: darkness and light. Any words, ideas, theories, or laws that contradict the Lord's Word are darkness. When we encounter those words of darkness, Paul tells us we are to expose those words, not the people. Too often, we attack the source of the darkness instead of the darkness itself. That professor, despite his degrees and position, was spreading darkness. It continued to spread because I would not expose those words to the light. We may feel that being meek and loving and gentle prevents us from exposing the darkness, but Jesus shows us that is not true. Whenever He spoke, He exposed those words of darkness. Jesus came to set us free from that darkness. He equipped us to speak His truth in love so as to expose the darkness. These days are marked by countless displays of lights to make this season joyful. Our words of light will do the same thing.