

# **SERMON TITLE:**

## **From Darkness to Light: The True Identity of Mankind and the Believer**

### **Theme:**

The Bible reveals the depth of human sinfulness, and the radical transformation God accomplishes in Christ.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible is brutally honest about the human condition. Apart from God's intervention, every aspect of man—his nature, heart, and deeds—is corrupted by sin. Yet in Christ, God regenerates us and makes us new.

We cannot understand salvation unless we first see how deeply sin affects humanity and recognize our total dependence on God.

## **1. The Darkness of Man: Fallen Nature**

Man was created in God's image, but sin has affected every part of his being. Humanity cannot choose God or do good apart from His intervention.

### **Scriptures:**

- **Genesis 6:5** – “Every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
- **Psalms 51:5** – “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”
- **Ephesians 2:1–3** – “You were dead in your trespasses... by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.”
- **Romans 8:7–8** – “The mind set on the flesh is hostile to God; indeed, it cannot please God.”

### **Points:**

- Sin affects all areas of human nature: mind, will, heart, and desires.
- Humanity is spiritually dead and unable to seek God on its own.

### **Application:**

- Confess your inability to save yourself; acknowledge your dependence on God.
- Rejoice that salvation is entirely God's work, not yours.

## 2. The Darkness of the Heart and Thoughts

The human heart is corrupt and enslaved to sin. Our thoughts and desires are twisted until God renews us.

### Scriptures:

- **Jeremiah 17:9** – “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
- **Mark 7:21–23** – “From within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts... All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”
- **Romans 1:21** – “Their foolish hearts were darkened.”
- **Proverbs 6:14,18** – “With perverted heart devises evil, continually sowing discord...”

### Points:

- No part of the heart is untouched by sin.
- Spiritual blindness keeps humanity from understanding God’s truth without His intervention.

### Application:

- Pray for God to illuminate your heart and mind.
- Trust that your renewed desires for God are His gift, not your own work.

## 3. The Darkness of Human Deeds

Sinful nature and heart produce corrupt deeds. Even “good” works are tainted by self-interest apart from God.

### Scriptures:

- **Isaiah 64:6** – “All our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.”
- **Romans 3:12–18** – “No one does good, not even one... Their feet are swift to shed blood... There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
- **Micah 7:2–4** – “The godly has perished from the earth... Their hands are on what is evil, to do it well.”
- **John 3:19–20** – “People loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.”

### Points:

- Human deeds apart from God are offensive and lead to death.
- True righteousness comes only from God’s work in us.

### Application:

- Examine your actions: are they reflecting God’s work or the old nature?
- Turn daily to God for forgiveness and the power to walk in righteousness.

## Final Scripture Transition

### Ephesians 5:8–10 –

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light... and find out what pleases the Lord.”

## Darkness vs. Light: The Transformation in Christ

Aspect	Darkness (Without Christ)	Light (In Christ)	Key Scriptures
Nature	Fallen, corrupt, hostile to God	New creation, spiritually alive	Eph. 2:1–3; 2 Cor. 5:17
Heart / Thoughts	Deceitful, darkened, enslaved to sin	Renewed, desires God’s will	Jer. 17:9; Romans 12:2
Deeds / Works	Wicked, polluted, self-serving	Pleasing, holy, fruit-bearing	Isa. 64:6; Eph. 5:10
Identity	Child of wrath, lost in darkness	Child of light, born again, saint, child of God	1 Thess. 5:5; John 1:12; 1 Cor. 1:2
Spiritual Condition	Dead in sin, blind to God’s truth	Alive in Christ, illuminated by the Spirit	Eph. 2:1–5; John 8:12
Relationship with God	Enemies, rebellious	Adopted, reconciled, intimate with God	Romans 5:10; Gal. 3:26
Outcome	Condemnation, slavery to sin	Salvation, sanctification, eternal life	Romans 6:23; 1 Pet. 1:3

## 4. The Contrast: Believers in Christ

God regenerates believers, a renewed heart, and the ability to produce good works. Believers are transformed from darkness to light.

### New Identity Scriptures

#### Ephesians 5:8–9

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth).”

### **1 Thessalonians 5:5**

“You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

### **John 12:36**

“While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.”

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

### **1 Peter 1:3**

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

### **John 1:12**

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”

### **Romans 8:14–17**

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.”

## **Points**

- Believers are **no longer enslaved to darkness** but walk in light and truth.
- **Hearts, thoughts, and deeds** are renewed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Salvation is not merely a change in status but a **transformation of the whole person**.

## **Application**

- **Walk intentionally** as children of light in every area—your speech, habits, relationships, and work ethic.

- **Embrace your new identity**—stop identifying with your failures or your past. Identify with your Savior.
- **Model transformation**—let your life preach what your lips confess. Encourage others by being a visible testimony of what Christ can do in a human heart.

## CONCLUSION

The contrast is dramatic: apart from God, man is dark, deceitful, and wicked. But in Christ, God gives new life—making us holy, alive, and pleasing to Him.

- Salvation is a complete work of God, from beginning to end.
- Examine your life: are you walking in the new identity God has given?

### Challenge:

Are you truly living as a child of light, or are you still letting the darkness of your old nature control you?

If you have been brought from darkness to light, then *walk as a light-bearer* in your home, your workplace, and your world. Let the transformation of Christ in you be visible—so that when others see your life, they will glorify your Father in heaven.