

HOW TO LIVE AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8-17

We live in dark days, but yet there are opportunities for the gospel. As it gets darker, the light shines brighter. As God's children, let us shine God's light into the darkness.

1.SHINE GOD'S LIGHT – Ephesians 5:8-10

- Shine the light because you are the light! – verse 8; Matthew 5:14-16. We are to reflect God's character as His children – James 1:17; 1 John 1:5-7. We once were darkness, not only in darkness. We were once part of the forces of darkness – Ephesians 2:1,2; 6:12. *“While we are outside Christ, all is under the dominion of Satan.”* – John Calvin. But now we are light! What a beautiful picture of salvation and regeneration.
- Shine the light by living out the fruit of the light – verse 9. This means living out all that is good, right, and true. The Holy Spirit produces His good fruit in us as we walk with Him in His ways. It means “we don't just curse the darkness, but light a candle”. You are that candle. Light is necessary to bear fruit.
- We shine out God's light by “approving what is acceptable or pleasing to the Lord.” We walk in the light by testing the teaching we hear and approving truth according to His Word – Romans 12:2. We are shining the light as God's representatives in this world. How brightly are you shining for Jesus?

2.EXPOSE THE DARKNESS – Ephesians 5:11-14

- We have been delivered from darkness and brought into God's light – Colossians 1:13,14; 1 Peter 2:9. We are to not live any longer in darkness, but expose darkness! - verse 11. We expose the evil of the world as we turn the searchlight of God's truth onto it. The lies and deception of the devil are exposed by God's truth in the Bible – 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. We are to not to share or participate in “the unfruitful works of darkness” – Romans 13:11-14. Deeds of darkness are polluting. In fact, it is shameful to speak of much of what the world does and says. This warning is probably referring to such things as mentioned already in verses 3 and 4. We condemn the immorality of the world, without needing to know or go into all the details of depravity.
- Light drives out darkness. We are to seek God's truth and light in every situation. Our daily light is His Word – Psalm 43:3; 119:105. We cannot accept the opinions and values of the ungodly. Exposing darkness may lead others by God's grace to see the light in Jesus – John 8:12. Light both makes visible and transforms.
- Because we are the light and in the light, we are to be awake, be alive, and eager to live in service to God – Isaiah 60:1,2. The Christian life is like *“an awakening from sleep, a rising from the dead, and is a going from darkness into light.”* – Leon Morris. The light and life are gifts from Christ, not results of human merit.

3.LIVE CAREFULLY AND WISELY – Ephesians 5:15-17

- Because we are the light and live in the light we are to live carefully. We are to continually use our opportunities God gives us. Wise people know our time is short and they make the most of time – Psalm 90:12; James 4:14. Believers are to make the most of our opportunities for Christ.

We are to “redeem” the time, buying back what we used to use for selfish and sinful purposes, to now use our time for God’s glory. God gives us opportunities daily to do His Will and obey Him. It is unbelief to say you need more time to do God’s will. Each of us receives the same 24 hours per day! Let us be careful to prioritize our time for God, and not waste our lives. We are to use opportunities for good and let go of opportunities to waste our time. *“Outside of purposeful disobedience of God’s Word, the most spiritually foolish thing a Christian can do is to waste time and opportunity; to fritter away his life in trivia and in half-hearted service to the Lord.” – John MacArthur.*

- It is crucial to use our time for God because the days are evil – Galatians 1:4; Philippians 2:14-16a. If you don’t use your time for God, the devil will be glad to use it for you. Wise people discern the will of God. We are to seek God’s will first in the Bible, because the Bible is God’s revealed will. It is our ultimate authority. Where Scripture speaks, God speaks. *“God said it...that settles it for me.”*

Concluding Applications:

- Are you awake and alive unto God? Has Christ shined upon you?
- How well are you representing Jesus by shining His light in the world?
- Do you spend time with God in His Word to get to know the Light better?
- Are you using your God-given time wisely to shine His light as you have opportunity?