

WALKING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT!

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"Children of light" - what an interesting title to bear. "Children of light" sounds cool, mystical, like a New Age idea & honestly a little confusing. What and who in the world are "children of light"? According to God's word, those who are now Christ's are children of light. Yet, what does it mean?

Mull over what Paul wrote to the church in Ephesians: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible." (5:8-14a - NIV)

Reading Ephesians 5, we see that we were not just in darkness before we knew Jesus as lord, but we were darkness (vs. 8). Our lives, habits, hearts personified darkness. To know darkness, some one could have looked at our lives. Isn't that a lovely thought?!

We were darkness. We lived avoiding God's standards of moral excellence. We had a standing of unrighteousness before God because of our unrighteous lives. We were captives of error, lies - shunning the truth - suppressing it (see Romans 1:16ff).

But now, to the praise of His glorious grace, when you see someone whom Christ has redeemed, you see a person who is light - light in the Lord (Eph. 5:8, 9).

We are light. We want to pursue that which is good - or excellent. We have been made righteous in Christ and seek to live a righteous life. We seek truth, live by it and are being set free by it (John 8:27-32).

"Light" is used to speak of different things in scripture: truth, holiness, purity of life, revelation from God. Here, we learn what light is by looking at its fruit (vs. 8-13). Light speaks of all that is good (morally excellent), righteous (having integrity in one's dealings with God and people) and in line with the truth (consistent with God's person, word and ways).

Being God's children of light means that we are to no longer be those whose lives are full of sin and error in belief and behavior (darkness).

Now, we possess the life of God in us, and experience and express His goodness, His righteousness, His truth.

What does this mean for us practically? How does this identity impact our conduct and character?

As children of light, we are to have lives that bear the fruit of His will, lives of goodness, righteousness and truth. Here, we learn what light is by looking at its fruit (vs. 8-13). To live as light means you will have lives of goodness - morally excellent.

To live as light means you will have lives of righteousness. This means having integrity in one's dealings with God and people. Being honest, upright people, above reproach in both motives and actions. Does this sound like you?

To live as light means you will have lives of truth. Your life is one that is consistent with God's person, word and ways. You are not just a repository of truth, a biblical whiz kid. Your head and heart are in concert with one another. We are to flesh out light in a dark, sinful world (vs. 9). Sound like you?

We are also to seek out further light, finding out God's will for all areas of our lives (vs. 10). We are to have all areas of our life in line with God and his will, discerning what He wants. Some of the main means or tools we use in our quest for His will are prayer, reading and knowing His word, asking others, learning from life itself.

Children of light also fence out or shun all that is not God's will for their lives. We don't partner in the beliefs of those with sinful beliefs (vs. 6-7), nor do we participate in sinful behavior of those who are darkness (vs. 11-14).

Instead, we set forth what is wrong and shine out what is right, calling others to awaken, to come to life so Christ can shine on them too (vs. 12- 14).

Knowing you are "light in the Lord" means that as light you are to shine forth His light in your life, seek out His will for all of your life, shun that which displeases Him while you set forth His light, His will, His grace to others.

Jesus said "Let your light so shine before men that they would see your good works & glorify our Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). Sadly, many of us have dimmed out His light in us. We have bushel baskets of sin blocking our light (Matt. 5:14-16).

How brightly or clearly do you shine? Are you "dimmed" by partnering with those with sinful beliefs, by sharing in their sinful activities and attitudes? Or are you shining clear, exposing those things that are even too shameful to be spoken of? We are to live so that our lives call others to awaken from their death and darkness and Jesus' light can shine on them too (Eph. 5:11-14).

Leading such lives help us fulfill our identity. Instead of "cursing the darkness" God has lit a candle - YOU - one of His children of light.

Do I hear some one humming "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine."? Nice, very nice. All together now!

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