

How Light Can Change Us

A Study of Light from Ephesians 5

Ephesians 5:8-13 ⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. ¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Ephesians 5:8-13 ἦτε γάρ ποτε σκότος, νῦν δὲ φῶς ἐν κυρίῳ· ὡς τέκινα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε ⁹ -ό γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ φωτὸς ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ- ¹⁰ δοκιμάζοντες τί ἔστιν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ, ¹¹ καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε. ¹² τὰ γὰρ κρυφῇ γινόμενα ὑπ’ αὐτῶν αἰσχρόν ἔστιν καὶ λέγειν, ¹³ τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦται,

Last week, Pastor Kevin spoke on how God created light, from Genesis 1. He also shared how there will spiritual implications to light throughout scripture. One passage which highlights and explains the concept of life as it impacts our spiritual lives is Ephesians 5. This morning we will look at this passage and see how light has and should change us in our faith.

I. Light Has changed who we are (You are light)

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord.

A. You were once darkness

How were we darkness? God is light. However, in our natural state, we are apart from God. We did not know God, seek God, or obey God. We did not know the truth or God's will for us.

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others

Ephesians 2:11-12 ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh -- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands -- ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Colossians 1:21-22 ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight –

Titus 3:3 ³ For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.

B. Now you are light.

There has been a change in who we are. We are no longer people of darkness. God has done something.

Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

Ephesians 2:4-6 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),⁶ and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus,

Ephesians 2:13 ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Titus 3:4-7 ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. **1 Peter 2:9-10** ⁹ But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(Russian Atheletes)

Now we belong to God. We are His. We have changed and God has changed us in many ways.

II. Light has changed what we do (Walk as children of light)

Walk as children of light⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

Walk – this has the idea of what we do, or how we live.

How do we walk as children of light?

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.² And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Ephesians 5:15 ¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

Fruit of the Spirit –

1) In all goodness –

Goodness - ἀγαθωσύνη, agathōsune – moral excellence.

2 Thessalonians 1:11 ¹¹ Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of *this* calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of *His* goodness and the work of faith with power,

All things which are good are things which we should be doing.

2) In all righteousness –

Romans 6:13 And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.

1 Timothy 6:11 ¹¹ But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.

1 John 2:29 - 3:1 If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

The things which are right in God's eyes are things which we should be doing.

3) In all truth –

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

We should be living according to the truth.

Doing what is acceptable

Finding out - δοκιμάζω, dokimazō - test, examine; interpret, discern, discover;

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

We need to understand what pleases, what is acceptable to the Lord, and then we need to just do it.

III. Light has changed what we do not do (No Fellowship)

¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose *them*. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Have fellowship - συγκοινωνέω, sunkoinōneō – to take part in; to help.

We are to not take part in anything that could be considered a “work of darkness.” We are to be people who have rejected the things of this world. We are to be different.

What are the works of darkness?

Ephesians 5:3-7 ³ But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; ⁴ neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. ⁵ For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any 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 be partakers with them.

Expose - ἐλέγχω, elenchō - show (someone his) fault or error, convince (someone) of (his) fault or error; show (something) up for what it is;

Probably in this context, the last definition is most appropriate. We show the world that their works are darkness; are displeasing to God.

(Unsaved don't think they are doing wrong – swearing in front of me)

Paul even adds “For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.” Not only should we not participate in darkness, but we should not even have those thoughts in our minds.

IV. Light has changed what others see (We expose)

¹³ But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Manifest - **φανερόω**, phaneroō - make known, reveal, show; make evident or plain;

What are we to make known?

Matthew 5:14-16 ¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

We are to expose, make known the Father, through the good works that we are to be doing. God can be glorified and honored as people see us obeying Him.

Light has the ability to show us what is around us. When we turn on a light we see the things which are in our way. (Getting up early). As believers are we exposing to others what is around them? If we are not, then we are the same as the lamp with a basket on top of it. We are not doing what we have been saved to do.

Are you light? If you have not put you faith in Jesus Christ your are still in darkness.

If you are light – Are you living like light? Have you put off darkness? Do people see light in you?