

Date: June 6, 2021  
Title: "Walk in Light"  
Scripture: Eph. 5:7-14

I. Introduction

We've been on quite a journey so far in Ephesians. In chapters 1-3 we looked at where we sit in relationship to God. We focused on the doctrine of the church as God's body, His temple and how we are united as his Family. In chapters 4-6 we move into a more experiential perspective and look at what is required to walk the Christian walk. To walk in unity, to walk in love and now this week to walk in light.

II. Last week we dealt with a harsh reality

- In verses 1-6 of chapter 5, there were some very harsh things said.
- We were called to be imitators of God, dearly loved Children, fragrant like an offering to God.
- However, we were also warned that we must be on guard against behaviours that could become idols in our lives:
  1. Sexual Immorality
  2. Impurity
  3. Greed
  4. Obscenity
  5. Foolish talking
  6. Crude jokes
- We were warned that if we let those things take over our lives, and become what we worship before God, we will not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
- We are also warned that we risk God's wrath.
- Finally, we are warned not to be deceived by empty arguments. You can use your own mind to figure out what some of these arguments might be.

III. Don't fall into the trap of condemnation versus conviction

CONVICTION...	CONDEMNATION...
• Is from God	• Is from Satan
• Leads to life	• Leads to despair
• Ends in joy	• Ends in sorrow
• Makes us want to change	• Makes us think we can't change
• Leads to new identity in Christ	• Leads to old identity in sin
• Brings specific awareness of sin	• Brings vague uncertainty about sin
• Looks to Jesus	• Looks to self
• Is a blessing	• Is a burden

(src: <http://javawithjill.blogspot.com/2014/09/conviction-vs-condemnation.html>)

- Don't fall into the lie that you are unworthy of his love.
  - Paul did not write these Christians telling them that these things excluded them that they were no longer part of God family - only that they were squandering their inheritance and they had a choice to make,
- IV. Do not partner with these things
- Verse 7's wording is stronger than just "partaking" in these actions, but you are partnering with them.
  - You are actively making a choice and choosing to add a partner to your life, but is it something you want to be partnered with?
- V. Verse 8 tells us that YOU have changed
- You WERE darkness.
  - Now you ARE light.
  - It's not a matter of moving in and out of darkness, but it is a transformation. When you accept the Lord into your heart, you are accepting a change in the very essence of who you are.
  - Again, these are not verses of condemnation, even if they are convicting.
- VI. Verse 9 tells us what the fruit of living this life of light will be.
- ALL:
- Goodness
  - Righteousness
  - Truth
- VII. Paul then challenges us:
- Live as children of light testing what is pleasing to the Lord.
  - We are in other places warned not to test the Lord in ways that say "If you're there God, do this for me." or "Let me sin even more so that God can prove how forgiving He is."
  - Instead we are to "Father, let me do this for you." "Let me bring glory to your name because you are the Lord my God." and see the blessings that rain down upon us as we grow our inheritance upon the firm foundation of Christ.
- VIII. Don't participate in darkness, but expose it, but don't glory in it (v11-12)
- Now this is hard. What if this is embarrassing? What if I am considered a prude? What if someone confronts me with a different opinion?
  - You need to confront this situation in the lives of believers, for their own good.
  - However, don't let this become a stumbling block for you. Don't revel in the words and glory of the sin as you are confronting it, lest you cause one to stumble.
- IX. Living as the light will allow you to confront things and change your life.
- What was hidden from you will be revealed.
  - "Well I'm a pretty good person" leads us to the lie of life being measured on a scale of good and bad.
- X. Conclusion
- Verse 14 concludes it rather well. Get up, sleeper! You are no longer dead. Christ will shine upon you! You have a walk you need to walk... in light.
- XI. Next Week

Next week we will continue in Ephesians with Eph 5:15-6:9. We will look at how to walk in wisdom.

May your week be a blessed one,

-Pastor Brian