
**BE IMITATORS OF GOD:
WALK IN THE LIGHT, EXPOSE THE DARK**
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I. Introduction

- A. People despise a fraud. When one is exposed, it causes shock.
 - i. story from Madison newspaper
 - ii. Catholic clergy in abuse scandal
 - iii. Be what you say you are! Behave as citizens of the kingdom of God.
- B. This chapter continues the thoughts of Chapter 4 – how and why to walk in a worthy manner (4:1) – in light of the blessings described in Chapters 1-3.
 - i. Walk in love (be motivated properly).
 - ii. Walk in the light (be the right influence).
- C. Ephesus was an immoral city with many pagan influences, including the temple of Diana.
- D. We face many of the same corrupting influences today, so Paul’s message is still very relevant for us. He gives strong warnings to stop being like the world around us. In the darkness of our world, we should be bright lights.

II. Walk in Love: Verses 1-7

- A. Be who you claim to be: a follower of Christ the King and a citizen of his kingdom, one who lives up to His standards.
 - i. story about Alexander the Great
 - ii. Imitate Christ’s sacrificial spirit.
 - iii. areas that are vulnerable for corruption (v. 3-5)
 - a. sexuality
 - b. materialism
 - c. understanding of God
 - d. speech
 - iv. Keep the Giver of gifts in mind, and this will help you use them properly. Give thanks as an antidote to corruption (v. 4).
- B. This is serious to God (v. 6).
- C. Therefore, don’t participate in that lifestyle (v. 7).

III. Walk in the Light: Verses 8-14

- A. You were darkness, but now you are light. Walk accordingly (v. 8).
- B. What light does
 - i. Light exposes things by overpowering the darkness.
 - a. sleeping by the Grand Canyon
 - b. Corinthian in 160 AD who dug a trench and had to hold a lantern all night to protect travelers
 - c. flashlight in Bible illuminating the source of unknown sounds
 - d. sad when someone allows darkness to rule his life
 - e. Sometimes when our sins are exposed we run like bugs from under a rock.
 - ii. Light transforms – laundry commercial

- C. Characteristics of walking in light (harvest of the proper lifestyle)
 - i. goodness
 - ii. righteousness
 - iii. truth
 - iv. Live to show what is acceptable to the Lord.
- D. Command: Don't participate with the unfruitful works described in v. 3-5.
- E. Commission: Expose those unfruitful works.
- F. Call: Awaken and let Christ give you light.
 - i. Stop being a spiritual Rip van Winkle.
 - ii. Stars shine brightest in deep darkness.
- G. other verses
 - i. Psalm 119:105
 - ii. John 3:19-21
 - iii. Philippians 2:15-16 (light = luminary/reflector)

IV. Conclusion

QUESTIONS

1. How is the word “walk” used in the Bible?
2. What emphasis is given to Jesus in these verses as our example?
3. How do you understand the phrase “kingdom of Christ”?
4. What is the spiritual significance of “darkness” and “light”?
5. Why does Paul say “You are light” rather than “You have become light”?
6. How do we understand the terms called “the fruit of the Spirit” in Verse 9?
7. What are some ways to prove or test what is acceptable to God?
8. What does the context demonstrate as “unfruitful works of darkness”?
9. What is the meaning of “awake, thou that sleepest” in Verse 14?
10. How do you understand “Christ shall give thee light”? See also II Peter 1:9 and Proverbs 4:18.