

# Live as Children of Light

Ephesians 5:3-20

7. Be filled with the Spirit - Prov 23:30; Gal 5:19-21
8. Edify one another through word/song - Heb 10:24-25
9. Give thanks for everything - 1 Thess 5:18

## Introduction

### I The Lifestyle of Darkness

- A. Marked by a lack of love
  1. Sexual immorality Matt 5:27-30; Phil 4:8
  2. Any kind of impurity - Eph 4:17-24
  3. Greed – Col 3:5
  4. Obscenity - Col 3:8
  5. Foolish talk - Prov 15:2
  6. Coarse joking - James 3:2-10
- B. The rationale for abandoning this lifestyle
  1. It is improper for God's holy people – Eph 5:3
  2. It is out of place for God's holy people – Eph 5:4
  3. It excludes a person from any inheritance – Eph 5:5
  4. It invites the wrath of God – Eph 5:6; Eph 2:1-3
    - a. We are not to be deceived - Gen 3:4
    - b. We are not to partner with such people – Eph 5:7

### II The Lifestyle of Light

- A. Marked by transformation
  1. From darkness to light - Eph 2:1-3; Col 1:12-14
- B. Marked by godliness
  1. Live as children of light - Phil 2:14-15
    - a. Its fruit consists of all goodness
    - b. Its fruit consist of all righteousness
    - c. Its fruit consist of all truth
  2. Find out what pleases the Lord
    - a. Follow Jesus' example - Jn 5:30; 8:29
  3. Have God's attitude toward darkness
    - a. Renounce the fruitless deeds of darkness
    - b. Expose the fruitless deeds of darkness
  4. Live wisely - Eph 3:10-11
  5. Make the most of every opportunity - Col 4:5; Gal 6:10
  6. Understand the Lord's will - Deut 4:5-6

## PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. What observations can you make regarding the fruit (pro/con) of our nation's rejection of God's plan for sexual relations?
2. Paul identifies two areas in our lives that require a great deal of self-control -- our sexual desires and our speech. What have you found to be helpful in maintaining self-control in these two areas? Where do you still need prayer?
3. What is the difference between inappropriate humor and fun vs. a wholesome good time? Why is ungodly speech not appropriate for the believer? And how should we handle it when we're with others who speak in this manner?
4. Of the 9 characteristics that Paul lays out as marks of godliness (IIB1-9), identify 3 that you would like to grow in.
5. What does it mean, practically, to "give thanks in everything?" Does he really mean in "everything?" What is the rationale behind such an exhortation? Do you do this? Why/why not?
6. How does Paul's command for us to imitate God in Eph 5:1 summarize all of his following arguments in 2-20?
7. Take a moment to thank God for giving you the privilege of imitating Him. Ask Him for grace and power to live as a child of light this week.

**BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

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