

Ephesians 5:3-14 Walk in the Light

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.

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.

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. 14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

In the passage before us today – there are 3 things we want to see that Paul presents to us

#1 There is an Actuality to Embrace

#2 There are Actions to Avoid

#3 There is an Authority to Accept

#1 There is a Actuality to Embrace V.8

A)The Christian life is not just about believing something – It is about becoming something

B)A transformation has happened

V.8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

C)You were once darkness – BUT NOW – you are light in the Lord.

D)This is a pattern that Paul likes to employ in his teachings –

1)to set a Contrast between what we used to be before we came to Christ – and what we are now.

E)Seen earlier/ Ch.2 You were dead – now you are alive

Here- You were darkness – not just in darkness you were actually darkness –

A)The darkness encompassed your whole being – that is who you were

B) **In other words we became a personification of the darkness that we lived in.**

1) Our understanding became darkened, our personalities were darkened,

2)our hearts were darkened, our deeds were darkened.

C)Like a Black hole in space –

1)it suck things in – not to trap them but to assimilate them –

D)We were assimilated into the darkness – we didn't even realize it

That is what we were – BUT NOW – since we gave our lives to Christ – We are light in the Lord !!!!

A)A transformation has happened – You were darkness – **NOW you are light in the Lord**

B)There has been a change that has happened inside of you – in your heart

1)Now that change needs to be reflected on the outside

C)PAUL wants us to walk in the reality the Actuality of our new standing

D)Chapter 4:1 – Walk in a manner that is worthy of your new IDENTITY

Your new Identity is to be reflected in the way that you live – the decisions that you make

A)The change doesn't happen by Osmosis – it happens by choices

B)Put off the former conduct – the old man – put on the new man that is now alive in Christ

E)Another example: Walk as Children of light –

¹² Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” John 8:12

A) Walking in the light is following Jesus –

B) Experiencing the very life of Jesus in our hearts – Jesus is the Light of life.

C) Having who He is fill us and shine through us

But walking in the light also means that – I am not going to be walking in darkness!

A) Can't have it both ways

1 John 1:5-7

⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

B) Walking in the light is primarily about fellowship with Jesus

1) Fellowship with other people who are also following Jesus – Cleanses by his Blood.

C) But if a person claims to know Jesus but walks in darkness – their profession is not authentic

1) Their practice doesn't match their profession of their Calling

So there is an Actuality to embrace – You were darkness – BUT NOW you are light in the Lord #2 There are Actions to Avoid V.3-4

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.

Let me define some of these terms for you, fornication is a word that describes any form of sex outside of marriage.

A) Some people have a tendency to think that as long as they are not engaging in intercourse – Ok

B) Fornication depicts any type of sexual activity outside of marriage

“The percentage (of American adults) who believed premarital sex among adults was morally acceptable was 29 percent in the early 1970s, 42 percent in the 1980s and 1990s, 49 percent in the 2000s, and 58 percent between 2010 and 2012,” General Social Survey, psychologist Jean Twenge SDSU

May 2019 Gallup Poll 71% believe morally acceptable

C) The Greek word fornication is Porneia from which we get our word pornography

1) Which means it also includes – pornography that leads to self-sexual gratification

D) Huge problem today: Alarming Stats –

Visits to Pornhub totaled 33.5 billion over the course of 2018,

A) An increase of 5 billion visits over 2017. That equates to a daily average of 100 million visitors in 2018

B) Porn sites receive more regular traffic than Netflix, Amazon, & Twitter combined *each month.* ([HuffPost](#))

C) 64% of young people, ages 13–24, actively seek out pornography weekly or more often. National Center on Sexual Exploitation 2019

Not just a guy problem – Many girls and women are now addicted to porn

A) Teenage girls are significantly more likely to actively seek out porn than women 25 years old and above.

B) A study of 14- to 19-year-olds found that females who consumed pornographic videos were at a significantly greater likelihood of being victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault. National Center on Sexual Exploitation 2019

C) Every year – we see families who end up being destroyed by pornography

D) Walking in the light – Avoid – Sexual immorality And that includes Porn

Uncleanness is a word that speaks not just of sexual immorality but also all kinds of sexual perversity.

A) We have this tendency – to look back at the days of the hippies – free love - Woodstock

B) Those guys were sexually perverse

C) Today's attitude of "free love is just as bad

40 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse and 10 percent have had sex with four or more people. US News and world report July 2018

Studies actually show that Sexual immorality is actually down among Millennials and Gen Z's –

A) But their approach to find it is way more sophisticated - Social media and dating apps

In February 2016 one study reported there were nearly 100 million people—perhaps 50 million on Tinder alone—using their phones as a sort of all-day, every-day, handheld singles club, where they might find a sex partner as easily as they'd find a cheap flight to Florida.

"It's like ordering Seamless," says Dan, the investment banker, referring to the online food-delivery service. "But you're ordering a person." - **Tinder and the Dawn of the "Dating Apocalypse"** Vanity Fair 2016

John, 26, a marketing executive in New York. Says - Sex has become so easy, "I can go on my phone right now and no doubt I can find someone I can have sex with this evening, probably before midnight." **Tinder and the Dawn of the "Dating Apocalypse"** Vanity Fair 2016

That is world we are now living in – Pray for our Youth Pastors

A) Pray for our parents

B) Now What is really interesting in Paul links fornication and uncleanness with covetousness - why?

C) *covetous* here is not greed for money, as it is frequently in the Scriptures,

1) but is "passion, greed for another's body, desire to possess another for exploitative use."

Sexual perversion begins with covetousness which is the desire to satisfy your lusts at any cost.

A) A guy might say to a girl he is not married to – *I want to make love to you*

B) Really saying - I covet you! I want to make lust with you.

C) I want to use you to gratify my sexual urges and desires! -

In the book of Proverbs - it says that He who commits sexual sin is unwise - He destroys his own soul. Proverbs 6:32

A) Now within the confines of marriage SEX is a wonderful thing because **your soul** is merging with **your spouses soul** and the two become one.

B) In Marriage – sex becomes a wonderful ONENESS BUILDER!

C) But when you do it outside of the boundaries of marriage

1) **you are allowing part of your soul to be ripped off.**

D) You are allowing a part of your soul your inner person to be destroyed.

1) You are opening up the very essence of who you are and you're letting someone tear a chunk of that right off.

The world doesn't understand that, the world thinks that it is only two bodies coming together enjoy moment passion

A) The Bible says it's two souls joined as one. Outside of marriage you are **ripping that person off permanently** - *you are taking a part of their soul*

B) Folks that's what we need to tell our kids- The Issue isn't Just AIDS; STD's or unwanted pregnancy

1) They will Argue -There is protection for that – Condom – practicing "SAFE SEX"

C) THE REAL ISSUE IS -YOU ARE losing a part of your soul –

1) There is No protection for that

D) The essential essence of your person is being stripped away each time you fornicate

1) Like the layers of an onion being peeled away so that there is nothing left

God is not prudicious folks –

A) He made sex! Designed sex to be an expression of love - in marriage

B) Two become one soul! He looked at the two and said *they are Adam!*

One flesh - one soul

C) Person who commits sexual impure acts - loses his soul - (not salvation)

1) but giving away a part you will never get back

D) There can be forgiveness with true repentance – turning from that behavior

1) But there will be long lasting ramifications

Note end of V.3 Paul says concerning sexual immorality **don't let that even be named among you!**

A) Not a part – We need to stand out in this area of Sexual immorality

B) We are called to be different!

C) Not even named – not a part of our lives – includes are Entertainment – if walk in the Light

D) April 15 2019 a record 17.4 million people tuned in to watch the premier of the season 8 of Game of Thrones – (Never seen it – not interested)

1) It is a show laden with nudity including full frontal nudity male and female

E) 82 nude scenes in 69 episodes since its first season on the air

1) Outright sex scenes – that include Rape, incest and Homosexual sex on screen

And lots of Christians are watching this show!

A) Paul says let it not even be named among you!

B) You were darkness – but Now You are light...Lord

C) Young People looking for a cause – Champion Biblical Sex –

1) The world says that the best sex is forbidden sex – that is what is portrayed constantly on the screen

D) Best sex is between two people who love God and love each other

1) and realize that sex was invented by God married couples express love

E) Come together experience beautiful oneness
Paul goes from speaking of the perversion of the body and mind to the perversion of the mouth - v.4

4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting,

A) Filthiness – obscenities - degrading, disgraceful

B) Foolish talking – Silly - comes from Greek word in which we get our english word "moron moronic

C) Coarse Jestng – Crude joking -

Paul says this is not fitting - Takes us back to the picture Paul painted in Chapter 4

A) Putting off the old man and putting on the new

B) This behavior of sexual immorality – filthy speech – doesn't fit your new identity

1) Doesn't fit your new Reality

C) We have all seen it – the Old person the 60 year old who is trying to look like a 20 year old

1) Not fitting – doesn't fit – silly – stupid

When a Christian – a person who is light tries to walk in darkness – doesn't fit

A) Too much of Jesus to be comfortable in the world

Too much of the world – be comfortable at Church

B) Hopefully never had this happen – Co-worker hears you go to church – profess Christian

1) Wow - I would have never guessed you were a Christian – So like everyone else

What they are saying is – Your behavior doesn't fit with your Profession

A) The Problem today is this – the lines have been so blurred – you have people who profess to be Christ followers – engaging in this behavior

B) No longer a distinction between Light and Darkness – now it is all gray

C) Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;
Isaiah 5:20

D) So there is an Actuality to embrace – We are light

1) There are actions to Avoid

#3 There is an Authority that we must Accept

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

When it comes to the subject of sexual immorality there is an authority that we must accept -

A) Note V.6 – Paul says don't let anyone deceive you with empty words

B) Some people will try and say – just sex – no big deal – just porn – everyone struggles with it right?

Paul says: Wrong -THIS IS SERIOUS

A) those who are practicing that lifestyle – living in that way – **no inheritance in the Kingdom- but the wrath of God is revealed to them**

B) The point the apostle is making is that no man can profess to be a Christian and continue in these things, **1) for if he does his practice denies his profession.”**

C) In other words, A LIFE STYLE OF continued sexual looseness

1) is incompatible with Christian faith because continuance in it reveals an unregenerate heart

D) Reveals a person who is still in darkness and not in the light at all.

In fact notice that Paul doesn't just link Sexual immorality with Covetousness but He also links it with Idolatry

A) Why? It is really the worship of Self – please my lust rather than pleasing God

B) Can't serve two masters love one and hate the other

1) Can't worship idols and be a Christian

D) Those who try that are deceiving themselves

◆ **Reality to Embrace**

◆ **Actions to Avoid**

◆ **Authority to Accept**

The Effects of walking in the Light !

A) Light produces Good Fruit

⁹ (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.-

B) Here are some of the byproducts of light (goodness, righteousness, truth).

C) Goodness – that which is acceptable – that is good – that makes sense - I like that

1) Righteousness – that which is Godly

D) Truth – full of integrity

Those are traits that are attractive to a lot of People – Contagious

A) Jesus did this better than anyone –

B) His light was the light of men – Something about him that even people in darkness were drawn to.

C) I think there are two types of people living in darkness – those who are tired of it

1) They long for something different – something more real

D) Drawn to the light – the light is appealing – draws them in.

1) Your light has an effect of showing them what they are lacking – they want that!

But there are others who love the darkness – They hate the light because:

A) The Light Exposes Evil – the other affect that Paul mentions in V.11-13

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.

¹¹ Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. ¹² It is shameful

even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, 14 for the light makes everything visible. NLT

B) This is interesting – Paul says that we are in the light need to expose the darkness V.11

1) That means that we need to not be afraid to speak out against the darkness in our world

C) Not be afraid to call sin – sin!

1) We are to have a VOICE

But then Paul says – that the Light shines on the darkness – Natural exposing

A) Our very lives are to create a contrast

B) Attractive to those who are tired of the darkness

1) But it is annoying to those who love the darkness

C) John 3 Darkness hates the light – exposes evil deeds

¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants." John 3:19-21

D) Don't be surprised when the world hates you – it hated me!

E) So don't be surprised – quit being invited to the parties - Just means your light is having an affect

Time to wake up

14 Therefore He says:

“Awake, you who sleep,

Arise from the dead,

And Christ will give you light.”

Twofold invitation:

A) Unbeliever: Dead in your sins – separated – You are in Darkness

B) Jesus who loves you – died for you – Rose to give you life – says Follow me

C) I will give you the light of life!

But this is also an invitation to anyone who is a Christian – lulled asleep by the world

A) Wandered back into darkness

B) Doing old things – Miserable – too much of Jesus to be happy in the darkness

1) Too much of the Darkness to really enjoy the Lord

C) Miserable – Felt stuck in that place

Jesus says – Wake up – That is not who you are You were once darkness BUT NOW – you are light in the Lord

A) Embrace that – walk in that – Experience by light and life again

B) Choose today – Follow Jesus – Come back into the light

Pray