

Connected

Walking in the Light Together Ephesians 5:8-16

I. Message – Walking in the Light Together (3 truths and 3 commands for walking together with Jesus)

a. Truth #1: You are no longer darkness – v.8

i. “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord:”

1. Notice: He does not say you were IN darkness
2. You were PART of it
3. But that was then
4. You WERE darkness (past-tense)
5. NOW you are light

ii. 2 Corinthians 4:6

iii. If this is you, remember your spiritual life before Christ?

iv. You were dead (review of 2:1-7)

1. Living like the world
2. Following the path of Satan
3. Fulfilling the lusts of your flesh and desires of your mind
4. As a result, you were the child of wrath!
5. That was then! You are now “light in the Lord”!

b. Command #1: So, walk as children of the light – v.8

i. “8...walk as children of light:”

ii. This is what the second half of Ephesians has been all about

iii. What does it look like to put off darkness and put on light?

iv. In short, the character of Jesus – Romans 13:11-12, John 8:12

c. Truth #2: The fruit of the Spirit is pleasing to God – v.9-10

i. What we are really after is the full character of Christ

ii. How could we describe Christ?

1. Goodness – moral excellence toward **others**
2. Righteousness – right relationship with holy **God**
3. Truth – honest assessment of **oneself**
4. In short, all that is well-pleasing to God – Matthew 3:17

iii. Justification v. Sanctification

1. The day you repented from sin and trusted Christ, you were justified
2. But you weren't sanctified, and you still aren't fully
 - a. In Christ, you are fully accepted in the family
 - b. But your behavior is not always "acceptable"
 - c. This is why we have ch.4-7

d. Command #2: So, avoid unfruitful wickedness – v.11-12

- i. We are to be in the world, but not of the world
 1. Like Jesus said
 2. Salt and light to a decaying and dark world
 3. But "have NO fellowship" with unfruitful, un-Christ-like works for darkness, of evil
 - a. **2 Corinthians 6:14**
 - b. Reproving wickedness with right living
 4. Not only dispelling the darkness of our evil world
 5. But shining a light on it by proclaiming truth!

e. Truth #3: Light makes truth obvious – v.13

- i. What does it take for something to be obviously visible?
 1. You must be awake to see it
 2. Your eyes must work
 3. But not just that
 4. Light must be shining on it or from it

f. Command #3: So, wake up and walk in light – v.14-16

- i. What does it look like to walk in light?
 1. **Walk with circumspect wisdom (not like a fool. How does a fool walk?)**
 - a. Fools have no regard for God – **Psalm 14:1**
 - b. Fools treat themselves as their god – **Proverbs 12:15**
 - c. Fools mock sin – **Proverbs 14:9**
 - d. Fools run at the mouth – **Proverbs 15:2**
 - e. Fools despise wisdom – **Proverbs 1:7**
 - f. Wisdom is the opposite
 2. **Use your limited time well**
 - a. He doesn't say to hoard your time for yourself

- b. He says to redeem it
- c. Use it well
- d. Use it for eternal purposes!
- e. Galatians 6:10; Psalm 90:12

II. Conclusions – how to walk in the light together (how does a church get to the place where we together walk in wisdom and use our time well?)

a. Intake more of the Word!

- i. Proverbs 6:23
- ii. Psalm 119:105
- iii. 2 Timothy 3:15

b. Stay close to Jesus

- i. 1 John 1:7
- ii. John 12:35-36

c. Avoid the darkness of sin

- i. 1 John 1:5-6
- ii. Proverbs 4:18