

Episode #311 – Ephesians 5 Part 2 – Walk in Light

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 5:1-5, we learned that we are urged to imitate God and to walk in love. Paul then listed certain wicked behaviors which do not come from love and are not appropriate for us to live in. He warned us of things which keep one from having an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ even of God. This is not a “how to” passage, but an exhortation and example.

III. Walk in love continued. First of three specific ways in which we are to “walk” (live our lifestyle, order our behavior.)

A. Ephesians 5:6. We should not be seduced by the empty words of anyone who claims anything different.

1. This is again an example verse, not a “how to get into the kingdom” verse. This time, the example is that of unbelievers, the “sons of stubbornness.” If God’s indignation comes upon them because of these things, how much less should we as believers indulge in them?
2. Our worthy walk is not to be like the sons of stubbornness we are surrounded by today. Instead, we should already act like the rulers will act in God’s kingdom to come.

G. Ephesians 5:7. Do not be joint-partakers with the sons of stubbornness. “Joint-partakers” is a word only here and Ephesians 3:6, of the nations in the dispensation of grace. All nations are joint-partakers in God’s promise through the gospel today. Yet we should not be joint-partakers with the ungodly people around us!

IV. Walk as children of light. The second specific way we are to walk as part of the “worthy walk.”

A. Ephesians 5:8. Once we were darkness in our lifestyles and behavior, but now we are light in the Lord! Darkness stands for wickedness and light for righteousness. We should be walking (ordering our behavior) in light instead of darkness. We should act like children of the light rather than of the darkness.

B. Ephesians 5:9. We should bear the fruit of the light. On a tree, the fruit is its produce. So these are the things we should produce in our lives. Lists fruits.

1. Goodness = Greek *agathosune* = uprightness and goodness in heart and life.
2. Righteousness = Greek *dikaioisune* = being what one should be; pure; correct in thought, feeling, and action.
3. Truth = Greek *aletheia* = that which accords with the facts. A real contrast with verses 3-4!

C. Ephesians 5:10. Finishing the fruit of the light. Testing = Greek *dokimazo* = putting to the test and proving. Being well pleasing to the Lord should be the goal of every believer. Instead we tend to test what pleases ourselves!

D. Ephesians 5:11. Unfruitful enterprises of this darkness. This is the opposite of testing what is well pleasing to the Lord. It also goes back to putting off and putting on: put off participating with darkness, put on enlightening it.

1. Fellowship = Greek *sugkoinoneo* = be joint-participants. We should not join in the unfruitful enterprises of this darkness.

2. Too often those who do not test what pleases the Lord can get involved in these works, thinking they are pleasing the Lord by doing them!
 2. Our job is to enlighten those things that are not the Lord's will, even if we are accused of legalism, arrogance, or Pharisaism by those who are doing them.
- E. Ephesians 5:12. Hidden in the darkness, they do shameful things, which should not even be spoken of! Sadly, many who get off track in what they claim to be doing for God also show no evidence of righteousness in their lives, but rather work such shameful things.
- F. Ephesians 5:13. The light makes manifest what is of God and what is not. Manifest = Greek *phaneroo* = to shine forth or make plain. The unfruitful works and hidden things are made plain by the light, and the well-pleasing things are made plain by the light. The light of God's word makes plain what is really of God and what is not!
- F. Ephesians 5:14. Our culture can lull us to sleep.
1. Isaiah 60:1-2. Calls upon the reader to awake, arise from among the dead, and Christ shall shine upon you!
 2. We should not allow ourselves to sleep any longer. The Word of God is what He has given to wake us up. We need to learn to think like the Word, not like the world around us.

VI. Conclusion: The worthy walk is the response Christ looks for after all He has done for us. He wishes us to walk in love. We should not act in inappropriate ways, for these very wicked deeds will bring the indignation of God on the sons of stubbornness. We should walk as children of light and bear the fruit of the light. Those who are in darkness do shameful things, but the light enlightens all. We should not let our culture lull us to sleep, but we should rise from among the dead and live our lives in the light.