

"1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; 2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour. 3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; 4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. 7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them. 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 14 Wherefore he saith, 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Eph 5:1-14)

The central exhortation from the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5 is for us to be "followers of God." Do not be ashamed of that, dear brothers and sisters. It is a good thing to be a follower of God, for we are the children of God and are not ashamed of Him. This means that we adopt a life-style that is not according to our previous mode: it is to be one that is holy and set apart from the viciousness of the world around us.

This lifestyle is a "walk in love, as Christ has loved us." Because He has died for us and purchased us for Himself, we are to hate and abhor the sins which sent Him to the cross: Fornication, uncleanness, covetousness. Filthiness, foolishness in speech, cruel jestings, but thanksgiving and that which adorns the saints, for that is what "becometh" means. It is fitting and beautiful for you do live so. It is becoming to the people of God to be followers of God; it looks good on them. None of the viciousness of the world, which consists chiefly in sexual wickedness and idolatry, will enter the kingdom of God. None who live in the covetousness of idolatry or in fornication will be in heaven. Do not be deceived about this, for faith leads to repentance, and it is dead and empty without repentance. The wrath of God comes upon the world for its sexual uncleanness and its covetousness and idolatry. The ancient world abounded in adultery, fornication, and idolatry which always go together.

You are the children of the light, not children of darkness. The light of the resurrection of Jesus Christ shines to all the world and those who profess to believe in His resurrection are called to walk in consistency with their profession. You are the children of the light, who formerly walked in darkness.

My text is therefore verse 8-11: 8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: 9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) 10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

There are three things: Walking, Proving, Reproving. These three things are consistent with the light.

- I. Walking. This is the first thing. If you do not do this, nothing else will come, and you will not be able to do anything else.
 - A. Putting down one foot after another. One foot at a time. Nothing spectacular about it. You walk where you are. We are to walk circumspectly. Verse 15. Watching all around us. We are in the light not stumbling in the dark. Watch the path before you, but know what is going on around you. Like driving on Union or Academy in Colorado Springs. Watch ahead, but know what is going on beside you and behind you.
 - B. There are three things that characterize this walk, this walking as children of the light;
 1. Goodness. You are to be good people. Don't be ashamed of choosing the good over the nasty. In your thoughts, your attitudes, your speech, your values. You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Be that. Raise the standard around you; do not be content to wallow in the darkness of the world or in the things of the world, the love of the world, for this is what the heathen do.
 - a. This goodness is the work of God: not the self-adorning goodness of selfish promotion: 2Thess. 1:11,12: 11 Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: 12 That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. Galatians 5:22: This goodness is the work of the Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit, as our text says.
 - c. Romans 15:13, 14: "13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. 14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." You must have this goodness, this genuine goodness of heart, in order to be able to walk as a child of the light.
 2. Righteousness: This means to walk according to the rule: not a lawless goodness, but a goodness that loves the law of God and nurtures the law of God in the heart. This is what Psalm 37 is saying: "30 The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. 31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide." It is not the goodness of sentimentality and emotion, but the goodness of obedience to God and His commandments. He is a follower of God, and his goodness and righteousness is the work of the Holy Spirit. This is not attainable by the natural man: you must be born again to be good and righteous. As a child of God, as a child of the light, you must walk as a child of God, as a child of the light, for the light of the life of Christ must be seen in you and

in me. Pray for one another; this is the most important thing that you should pray for with regard to your fellow Christian and believer.

3. Truth. The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth. That is, it must be with integrity. This mean two things:
 - a. What you say and do must be true; you must not speak or live falsely.
 - b. This means that you are to be the real deal: not like Ananias and Sapphira who professed more godliness than they had achieved. Walking as a child of the light means that you profess what is true: about God and about yourself. Don't be a pious phony. Be the real deal. Don't put on a front.
- II. Proving. This means that you pass the test. This can only be by faith.
 - A. Hebrews 11:1,2. "1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report." (Heb 11:1-2) "A good report" means that they were approved of God; they walked in faith as children of the light, shining in a dark world.
 - B. Job: "hast thou seen my servant Job," God said to the devil.
 - C. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." If you walk in the light, putting down one foot after another, walking circum-spectly: in all goodness, righteousness, and truth; God will approve of you and bless you. You will not need to stand on the street and proclaim your goodness and make long prayers. Your walk will be manifest to all. Enoch walked with God, and had this testimony that he pleased God. What a wonderful epitaph: he pleased God, but no one can write that except God Himself.
- III. Reproving. This is where the cross appears: "11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. 13 But all things that are re-proved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light."
 - A. Noah built an ark, and reprovved the world.
 - B. Enoch spoke against the ungodly speech, actions, and attitudes of the people of his day.
 - C. Abraham worshipped one invisible God in the midst of gross idolatry and wickedness.
 - D. The goodness and integrity of Naboth reprovved the greed and corruption of Ahab and Jezebel.
 - E. The goodness, righteousness, and integrity of the Lord Jesus reprovved the evil and wickedness of that generation of the scribes and Pharisees.
 - F. You shine as lights in the world; walk as children of the light. "Let your light shine in such a way before the world that they will see you good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

The conclusion is in verses 13 and 14: 13 But all things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." (Eph 5:1-14)

If this exhortation was needed for this fine church at Ephesus, how much more do we need it in our day. "Awake" Get serious, Christ has risen; you rise also; Christ will give you light. He works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure: therefore, open yourself to the Spirit of God, as the catechism says:

Q103: What does God require in the fourth Commandment?

A103: In the first place, God wills that the ministry of the Gospel and schools be maintained,[1] and that I, especially on the day of rest, diligently attend church [2] to learn the Word of God,[3] to use the holy sacraments,[4] to call publicly upon the Lord,[5] and to give Christian alms.[6] In the second place, that all the days of my life I rest from my evil works, allow the Lord to work in me by His Spirit, and thus begin in this life the everlasting sabbath.[7]

1. Titus. 1:5; I Tim. 3:14-15; 4:13-14; 5:17; I Cor. 9:11, 13-14
2. II Tim. 2:2, 15; Psa. 40:10-11; 68:26; Acts 2:42, 46
3. I Cor. 14:19, 29, 31
4. I Cor. 11:33
5. I Tim. 2:1-2, 8-10; I Cor. 14:16

6. I Cor. 16:2
 7. Isa. 66:23; Gal. 6:6; Acts 20:7; Heb. 4:9-1
- And:

Q88: In how many things does true repentance or conversion consist?

A88: In two things: the dying of the old man,[1] and the making alive of the new.

1. Rom. 6:4-6; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:5-10; I Cor. 5:7

Q89: What is the dying of the old man?

A89: Heartfelt sorrow for sin, causing us to hate and turn from it always more and more.[1]

1. Rom. 8:13; Joel 2:13

Q90: What is the making alive of the new man?

A90: Heartfelt joy in God through Christ,[1] causing us to take delight in living according to the will of God in all good works.[2]

1. Rom. 5:1; 14:17; Isa. 57:15
2. Rom. 7:22; 8:10-11; Gal. 2:20

Q91: What are good works?

A91: Those only which proceed from true faith,[1] and are done according to the Law of God,[2] unto His glory,[3] and not such as rest on our own opinion [4] or the commandments of men.[5]

You are the light of the world. Let us walk, putting one foot before the other, as children of the Light.

May God bless you. Amen and Amen.