

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS
"Walking in the Light"
Ephesians 5:7-14

INTRODUCTION

1. God's call upon the believer includes his becoming:
a) Follower (imitator) of God (v. 1) b) lover of God (v.2) and c) rejector of impurity (vv 3-5). The indwelling Holy Spirit is the dynamic for this sort of life.
2. Heeding these positive injunctions, it is possible to avoid deception by vain words. In doing this, one does get the wrath of God which is inevitable for those who are partners with unbelievers (v. 6).
3. Paul enjoins by a strong negative present imperative to cease and desist becoming partners with sinners (v. 7). No stronger word could be given for social and moral separation!
4. Rather than becoming a partner with non believers, a positive approach is advanced:-

1. WALK--LIGHT v. 8

a. Position

Diametrically opposed positions are given for the believer: were sometimes (then) and now. The verb suggests what was is now all behind them. They were the very embodiment of darkness; now they are the embodiment of light. The former denotes ignorance, pollution, and wretchedness; the latter enlightenment, sanctification, and blessedness.

b. Practice

Here is present tense imperative. It connotes a complete break with the past. Believers are expected to walk in a way consistent with their character as men illuminated and sanctified by their union with the Lord Jesus (cf. 4:1; 2:2).

2. PRODUCE--FRUIT v. 9

The effect of divine illumination is fruit (cf. Gal. 5:22). Cardinal qualities which mark life in the light include:

a. Goodness

This means kindness, beneficence, and the spirit to help others.

b. Righteousness

This means a holy regard for the rights of others in respect to both honesty and purity. It considers

giving people their due.

c. Truth

This does not mean only that which is spoken, but also truth of idea, sincerity, and straightforwardness.

Note: The use of "all" means all forms of piety and virtue in these three areas.

3. PROVE--ACCEPTABLE v. 10

The present active participle notes to test so as to approve. This expresses not the weary feeling of what will be the next restriction, the next drain, the new load upon one's shoulders, but - how can I please the Lord in this or that. How can my thoughts meet His. How can my will have the joy of being laid above the line of His good pleasure. Oh, to have a holy precient instinct for God.

4. REFUSE--FELLOWSHIP v. 11

The injunction is a present imperative with the negative and means: stop having a partnership with the unfruitful works of darkness. There is no common view, feelings, interest, or congeniality between darkness and light. The works of darkness spring from ingnorace of God while the fruit of light comes from the knowledge of God.

5. REPROVE--DARKNESS vv. 11-13

a. Direction v. 11

Here is another present active imperative which urges believers beyond testing the works of darkness. The verb means to shed light on them, to exhibit their true nature as night and destruction, knowledge and holiness like ignorance and sin are inseparable.

b. Notation v. 12

The works of darkness are unspeakably bad, especially those done secretly. The believer has no other recourse than to pursue the imperatives of verse 11.

c. Explanation v. 13

Here is the practicality of reprovng the works of darkness. The light shining in on the darkness will dissipate it. There is a sense of optimism here.

CONCLUSION The final verse of the section is probably a quotation (Isa. 60:1). The "no fellowship" and "reproving" are aimed at the conversion of the sinner. Spiritual darkness is not a necessity. Praise God.