

CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

Session 5 - Living in Love and Light

Scripture Reading: Eph. 5:1-14

[Eph. 5:1](#) Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children;

[Eph. 5:2](#) And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.

[Eph. 5:3](#) But fornication and all uncleanness or greediness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints,

[Eph. 5:4](#) And obscenity and foolish talking or sly, filthy jesting, which are not becoming, but rather the giving of thanks.

[Eph. 5:5](#) For this you realize, knowing that every fornicator or unclean person or greedy person (who is an idolater) has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

[Eph. 5:6](#) Let no one deceive you with vain words, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience.

[Eph. 5:7](#) Therefore do not be partakers with them;

[Eph. 5:8](#) For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light

[Eph. 5:9](#) (For the fruit of the light [consists] in all goodness and righteousness and truth),

[Eph. 5:10](#) Proving what is well pleasing to the Lord.

[Eph. 5:11](#) And do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove [them.]

[Eph. 5:12](#) For the things which are done by them in secret it is shameful even to speak of.

[Eph. 5:13](#) But all things which are reproved are made manifest by the light; for everything that makes manifest is light.

[Eph. 5:14](#) Therefore He says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Today's Reading

Verse 1 says, "Become therefore imitators of God, as beloved children." Paul's word here is an imperative, a command. He commands us to become imitators of God. What a glorious fact that since we are His beloved children, we can be imitators of God! As the children of God, we have His life and nature. We imitate God, not by our natural life, but by His divine life.

In loving us Christ gave Himself up for us. It was for us, but it was a sweet-smelling savor to God. In following His example, our walk in love should not only be something for others, but also a sweet-smelling savor to God.

In verse 2 Paul tells us to walk in love, and in verse 8 he tells us to walk as children of light. The first seven verses of this chapter cover the matter of love. If we walk in love, we shall keep ourselves from uncleanness. To walk in love is to walk in intimacy with God. An intimate relationship between a daughter and mother may illustrate what it means to walk in love. Certain young women enjoy an

intimate love with their mothers. They love whatever their mothers love. Because of the love they have for their mothers, they are not willing to do anything opposed to their mothers' feeling.

In verses 3 and 4 Paul lists certain things not fitting for saints: "But fornication and all uncleanness or unbridled greedy lust, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; and filthiness and foolish talking or coarse jesting, which are not becoming, but rather giving of thanks." Nothing is more damaging to mankind than fornication. Unbridled greedy lust is a lust full of greed and uncontrolled. Such evil things should not even be named among us, as is fitting for saints, for persons separated unto God and saturated with God, living a life according to God's holy nature.

Instead of foolish talking or coarse jesting, there should be the giving of thanks. To give thanks to God is to speak God as truth, whereas foolish talking or coarse jesting is to speak the Devil as falsehood.

Verse 6 continues, "Let no one deceive you with vain words, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience." The wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience mainly because of the three evil things spoken of in verse 3. The sons of disobedience are the unbelievers. We, the believers, are beloved children of God. Nevertheless, some of God's children behave as if they were sons of disobedience. Therefore, the wrath of God will come upon them. For this reason, in verse 7 Paul tells us, "Do not become partakers together with them." We should be good imitators of God and not be partakers of any unclean thing.

After commanding us to walk as children of light, Paul inserts in verse 9 a parenthetical statement regarding the fruit of the light, saying that "the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth." Goodness is the nature of the fruit of the light; righteousness is the way or the procedure to produce the fruit of the light; and the truth is the reality, the real expression of the fruit of the light. This expression is God Himself. The fruit of the light must be good in nature, righteous in procedure, and real in expression so that God may be expressed as the reality of our daily walk.

In verse 11 Paul says, "And do not participate in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even expose them." The unfruitful works of darkness are vanity, whereas the fruit of the light is truth, reality. Just as Paul commands us to walk as children of light, he also commands us not to participate in the unfruitful works of darkness.