

Ephesians 5:5-21 - Part 2

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 10-14-15

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. **New Standards - unity and purity** (4:1-5:21) - final section
4. New Relationships (5:21-6:24)

Incentives for Righteous Living (vv. 5-21)

- Incentive = A thing that motivates or encourages one to do something
- Last week: **1. The Certainty of Judgement** (vv. 5-7)

2. The _____ of Light (vv. 8-14)

- Darkness/light metaphor
 - Darkness = ignorance, error, and evil (cf. 4:17-18; 5:8a)
 - Light = truth and righteousness - 5:8b - "but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light"
 - No preposition! Lit. you _____ darkness, now you _____ light
 - Lives vs. environment. Radical transformation "in the Lord"
 - Our behavior must _____ to our identity.
- What does this mean in practice?
 - V. 9 - the fruit of this life of light is "all goodness and righteousness and truth"
 - Like plants in nature, these things grow as the fruit of being in the Light of Christ
 - V. 10 - "trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord"
 - Earnestly seeking to _____ his Light
 - V. 11 - "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them"
 - **Negative:** Do not participate in their "unfruitful deeds"
 - The opposite of bearing fruit
 - Their empty _____ correspond to their barrenness
 - **Positive:** Expose their deeds
 - Lit. "show them to be what they truly are"
 - Double value of shining as light
 - V. 13a - light makes the ugliness of sin _____
 - V. 13b - It has a _____ effect
 - More than exposure, it should be _____
 - As people see the ugliness of evil they should also see the beauty of holiness, which taken together can lead to conviction of sin and faith in Christ.
 - Cf. "truthing in love" - exposing darkness with a redemptive purpose in mind. Takes into account the *person* behind the sin.
 - V. 14 - "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
 - In Adam all are born "asleep" - _____ and _____
 - Conversion is awakening from this sleep, rising up from death, and being brought into the very light of Jesus