

The Church, God's Plan for This Age: Live Like Children of the Light

Ephesians 5:3-6

November 8, 2020

- A. Be not ye therefore partakers with them (7).
  - B. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord (8a)
  - C. Walk as children of light (8b)
  - B. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth; Proving what is acceptable to the Lord.
- A. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them (12)

Our Lifestyle Must Reflect Our Identity as Children of the Light.

1. Avoid sexual immorality and greed (3).
  - a. Sexual immorality is completely inconsistent with your new identity as a saint (3a; cf. **4:24**).
    - i. Fornication encompasses any sexual activity outside of a marriage relationship (1 Thess. 4:3-7).
      1. Premarital sex and adultery (Matthew 19:9)
      2. Sex with a prostitute (1 Corinthians 6:12-20)
      3. Homosexual relations (Romans 1:29)
      4. Incest (1 Corinthians 5:1)
    - ii. Uncleanness refers to the corruption of the heart that renders us impure (Matthew 12:34).
      1. Paul uses the word "all" to emphasize every form of sexual impropriety.
      2. Christ taught that lusting is equivalent to committing adultery (Matthew 5:27-28; 15:19).
  - b. Greed is completely inconsistent with your new identity as a saint (3).
    - i. Paul told Timothy that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).
    - ii. You must never love, trust, and obey wealth rather than God.
    - iii. Covetousness makes an idol out of money and possessions (cf. 5)
2. Avoid shameful behavior and foul speech (4a).
  - a. Filthy, indecent behavior is completely inconsistent with your new identity as a holy child of God.
    - i. Any conduct that is shameful, disgraceful, and debased is to be avoided.
    - ii. This could refer to lewd gestures, inappropriate touching, disgusting practical jokes, and a wide variety of other behaviors.
  - b. Foul speech is completely inconsistent with your new identity as a holy child of God.
    - i. Foolish, salacious talk, must be avoided.
    - ii. Jestering can refer to inhuman or degrading jokes often at somebody else's expense, it may also refer to twisted, lewd jokes.
    - iii. This kind of speech is completely inappropriate for the Christian.
3. Develop a heart of gratitude (4b-5).
  - a. Christians should be recognized by their thankfulness to God.
  - b. Gratitude should be a characteristic of all believers.
    - i. 2 Corinthians 9:15 "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift."
    - ii. Ephesians 5:20 "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father..."
  - c. The reason we are to live with a heart of thanksgiving is that believers are unlike those still trapped in a lifestyle characterized by sin; the redeemed now have an inheritance in the kingdom (5).
    - i. Paul reminds them of what they already know, which should cause them to rejoice in what they've inherited in Christ.
    - ii. This verse is not warning believers that these sins will cause us to lose our salvation.
    - iii. Instead, Paul is reminding us that this kind of behavior is not consistent with our identity as partakers in the kingdom of Christ and God.
      1. The kingdom of Christ exists now in which Christ redeems a people for Himself and empowers them in their struggle against supernatural enemies such as sin, the flesh, the world, the evil spiritual powers, and death.

2. The kingdom of God refers to the future aspect of the kingdom in which Christ will completely and finally defeat the rebellious principalities and powers and present His kingdom to the Father.
4. Don't justify wicked behavior (6).
    - a. There are those who would try to justify these ungodly behaviors as permissible in the Christian life under various circumstances.
      - i. We are to beware of those that excuse these sins in their teachings.
      - ii. We are to beware of those that excuse these sins in their own lives.
    - b. Those who would try to justify these behaviors need to remember that the day is coming when God will judge the children of disobedience who commit these same sins.
      - i. 1 Thessalonians 1:10 "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."
      - ii. 1 Thessalonians 5:9 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ."

Conclusion:

1. What safeguards have you put in place to avoid sexual immorality?
2. What safeguards have you put in place to avoid greed?
3. Can others say that your speech and behavior are consistent with your identity in Christ?
4. Are you cultivating gratitude daily by thanking God for all that you possess in Christ?
5. Are you justifying areas of sin?
6. Is your lifestyle veiling your light?