

Now You are Light

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NKJV Ephesians 5:1 *"Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.*

2 *And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."*

I. WE BELONG

Children imitate their parents—so we should imitate our heavenly Father.

Now that we are part of His family of believers, we should resemble Him in our ways, words, and responses. Evidence of **love** in our heart is showing it to those in our life.

Love is giving our time and energy to help anyone—even if they cannot return that favor. John 13:34–35 *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another."*

Now we are **light** and are changed by God's grace—we **walk** differently; **think** differently, and **live** differently than before—it is **Off with the Old; On with the New**—Our **new way** should be **visible**; and our **new speech** should be **audible**.

Any comment we make to others should *edify*, *inform*, and *encourage*. Any resentment, anger, or crude jokes are to be put away from us.

If others doing that—Walk away! We do that to walk worthy of the Lord.

NKJV Ephesians 5:3 *"But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;*

4 *neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting [for the believer], but rather giving of thanks" [to God always].*

The *Miracle of Grace* changes the way we act, respond, and treat other people.

God's grace *builds bridges* to those we ignored or shunned or had little to do with. **Grace received should be grace extended.**

To extend grace is to be *polite, courteous, and respectful*. It is a willingness to be *fair, kind, and forgiving*.

It means giving extra time and showing mercy and compassion to someone going through a tough trial.

II. WALK AWAY

Ephesians 5:5 *"For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.*

6 *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them."*

It is not just a *better-behaved person*, but being a **totally new person** in Christ. He paid our debt by

the sacrifice of His life. **Now We are Light**—and no more the **Old** but always the **New**.

We are done with thoughts and desires of the old life—*fornication, uncleanness, filthy jokes or crude remarks*. They are **not** part of our life anymore.

The culture and the world wants to *rename* sin, but when God says something is a *sin*—it is a **sin!**

Today's society wants to redefine sin—saying it is: *freedom of expression; personal choice; or I'm not hurting anyone*. But the warning 6 *"Let no one deceive you with empty words."*

Romans 12:2 *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."*

We should ask ourselves: Does this—*activity, book, magazine, music, or video* I like belong to the **New life** Christ gave me—or the **Old life** Satan wants to *keep on* me?

Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*

9 *(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord."*

III. NOW WE KNOW

We notice AV *"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord."*

Sometimes or too many times Satan tempts us back to the Dark days and ways, even though we are **Now light in the Lord** and **walk as children of light**.

The contrast—**Dark to Light; Deceit to Truth; Fruitless to Fruitful.** 9 *“For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.”*

Jesus tells us **Matthew 5:14–16** *“Ye are the light of the world”*—so just follow Me! **John 8:12.**

Our journey began **From Dark to Different**—so now that we know, the *difference* in us produces a *different* attitude—like a good tree produces good fruit.

Ephesians 5:11 *“And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works [deeds NIV] of darkness, but rather expose them.*

12 *For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.*

13 *But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light NLT When the light shines on them, it becomes clear how evil these things are.”*

Instead of *accepting* the ways of the world, we *reject* them and teach our young ones to reject them—advising them not to be involved with *deeds of darkness*.

We should not even discuss many things of the world, but only to explain how evil the world has become.

Ephesians 5:14 *“Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”*

Stop being spiritually careless or indifferent—and start being spiritually aware, alert, and on guard against deceit.

We can be physically *alive* yet spiritually *asleep* by just going through the motions but not asking Jesus to come in to our heart—praying: *“Help me, Lord, to change what really needs to be changed!”*

IV. BE CAREFUL

Ephesians 5:15 *“See then that you walk circumspectly [be careful how you live NLT], not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*

17 *Therefore do not be unwise but understand what the will of the Lord is.*

Jesus gives us His Spirit for free so we can *leave* the dark. His Spirit within empowers us to walk **away from** dark worldly attitudes and **out of** old habits that tries to *cling* to us.

“Redeeming the time, is walking carefully by the Word—*because the days are evil.”*

None of us has *unlimited time*—Every day spent can never be recovered. Live for Jesus **now** and we will **never regret it** later. *“Teach us to number our days”* Psalm 90:12.

V. SPIRIT IN CONTROL

Ephesians 5:18 AV *“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”*

Being controlled by the Holy Spirit is a true and eternal Gift from God. *“Be filled with the Spirit”* is allowing the Spirit to control our ways, words, and desires so our choices will be scriptural.

When the Spirit is in control—our *worship* is **Ephesians 5:19** *“Speaking to one another in psalms*

and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

20 *giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Ephesians 5:21 *“Submitting to one another in the fear of God.* A Spirit-filled life affects our relationships, our worship, our hearts, and our attitudes!

Our study reminded us of our spiritual position—free from sin through our faith in Christ’s sacrifice.

When we truly repent, God’s *Mercy is great, and grace is free; Pardon there is multiplied to me*—totally forgiven of all past sins.

Now we are Light, may God help us live differently—**imitating Him!**

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