



Week of February 16, 2020: Ephesians 5:8-14

Discussion Questions Set #1

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (Ephesians 5:8-14)

“[God] has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:12-14)

In sermon, we learned that the Apostle Paul makes it very clear that we once were darkness, but now are light in the Lord according to our passage.

1. What difference does it make that Paul indicates that not only were we once in darkness, but that we actually were darkness? What point do you think Paul is making by suggesting that the darkness of sin is not only external to us, but also a part of our identity before coming to faith in Christ?
2. Why might this be a difficult reality to accept?
3. In sermon, I suggested that Paul’s encouragement is not that we ought to become something we are not, but that we simply be what we’ve already become. How does this affect your view of what it means to walk in the light?
4. In sermon, I indicated that, though we might struggle to comprehend how He might do it, God will never ask us to do something that is impossible to accomplish through Him. How does this understanding affect our practice of living as children of light?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth ...” (Ephesians 5:9)

In sermon, I suggested that Paul defines for us three things that living as light produces; three fruit of such a life, so that we can somewhat gauge our “lighted-ness”. These fruit are: goodness, righteousness and truth. All of these fruit help us to walk in unity with fellow followers of Jesus.

1. Goodness means that we will produce relational goodness shown to one another – we will be people existing in right standing with one another. How does this affect the unity of the church?
2. Righteousness means that we will produce right standing in relation to God. How does this affect the unity of the church?
3. Truth means that we will produce integrity of thought and action; goodness as one views oneself. How does this contribute to the unity of the church?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Let [our] conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that [we] may know how to answer everyone”. (Colossians 4:6)

“Be very careful, then, how [we walk]—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16).

1. Why is intentionality key to our living as children of light?
2. What, from experience or just through reasoning, does living without intentionality as a follower of Jesus lead to? What fruit does an unintentional life tend to produce?
3. Have you ever considered that your walk – often more powerfully than your words - leads others to “glorify [our] Father in heaven”?
4. How does “abstain[ing] from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:22) amplify our light unto others?