

# Walk as Children of Light

Ephesians 5:7-14

## Sermon Application Questions

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-14. What do you think Paul means when he says “do not become partners with them?” How do we partner with people like this? How do we think about this command and yet be lights in our community?
2. How is Paul using the word “walk?” How do we walk in light? What are the practical steps we take for walking in light? What areas of our life should change?
3. How do we discern what is pleasing to the Lord?
4. How do we discern fruit of light and unfruitful works of darkness? What darkness do you have in your life that needs to be removed? How do we expose those things in ourselves, our family, our church, or our community?
5. Why do you think Paul tells them to wake up? What does that have to do with walking in light?

## Family Worship Questions

1. Read Ephesians 5:7-14 & Discuss:
  - What is fruit? What do you think Paul means by “fruit of light?” Why do you think fruit of light are things that are good and right and true?
  - How do we discern what is pleasing to the Lord? What do you think are “unfruitful works of darkness?” What do those things look like in the world around us or in our own lives?
2. Sing: *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*
3. Pray

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# Be Imitators of God

Ephesians 5:1-6

## Sermon Application Questions

1. What does it mean to imitate? How are we to imitate God? How can we help others to imitate God? How does being “beloved children” inform our understanding of how to imitate God? What ways can we not be imitators of God?
2. What does it look like for Christians to walk in love? How does “as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God” inform how we walk in love?
3. How does the contrast of verses 3-6 help us to understand further what it means to imitate God and walk in love?
4. What are the things that Paul says shouldn't be happening among the saints? How would you define or describe them or explain what they are? How does thanksgiving contrast with filthiness, foolish talk, and crude joking? Why does Paul equate covetousness with idolatry?
5. How come these things mean that the one who does them has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God?
6. Who are people who try to deceive us with empty words? What should our response be? How do we combat empty words?

## Family Worship Questions

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-6 & Discuss:
  - What are ways that we imitate people we know? What would it look like for us to imitate God? What things should

we do? What things can we not do?

- In verses 3-6 Paul lists six things that are not proper for saints, what are they? What should our lives as Christians look like?
- With all of this in mind how do we imitate God to our friends, family, teachers, other students, and fellow church members?

2. Sing: *Show Us Christ*

3. Pray

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# God's Gloriously Sovereign Grace

Ephesians 2:4-10

## Sermon Application Questions

1. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What is our state in verses 1-3 that we talked about last week? What are we able to do? What happens in verses 4-10? Who does the work? For what reason? What do we contribute to salvation?
2. What are the three verbs in verses 5 & 6 that show us what God does for us in salvation? What does it mean to be made alive with Christ, raised up with him, and seated with him? How should this change our lives?
3. What is the reason God does this? To whom is he showing the immeasurable riches of his grace? Read Ephesians 3:9-13.
4. Read verse 8-9. What does grace mean? How do grace and works contrast? What is an example of salvation by works? What are ways we can be tempted to work for our salvation? How does grace put boasting to an end?

5. What are the good works we are to do? How do we do the works of God? If we are not saved by works why are we to do works?

### Family Worship Questions

1. Read Ephesians 2:4-10 & Discuss:

- What are things people are rich in? What is God rich in? What do you think it means that God is rich in mercy? How do you usually respond/think/act toward people who don't like you? Part of being dead in our trespasses is that we are rebelling against God. How did he respond to us? Why does he respond to us that way? Hint: read verse 4 again.
- Reread the verses and ask who does the work in salvation?
- What does grace mean? How is grace different from work?
- What are the good works God has prepared for us? How do we do them?

2. Sing: *I Will Glory in My Redeemer*

3. Pray

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# The Gospel and the King: Part III

Acts 26:24-32

### Community Group Questions

1. What is it about Paul's testimony to Agrippa that Festus thought so unbelievable? That Festus would even claim that Paul was "out of his mind?"

2. Sometimes our testimony seems unbelievable to others, too. Have you ever been in a conversation with someone about Jesus and they thought you were out of your mind?
3. How would you describe Paul's heart for non-believers, for his enemies, even? What does Paul want for Agrippa and "all who hear me this day?"
4. Festus obviously respects Paul's "great learning," and he, along with Agrippa and Bernice, agree with one another that Paul is innocent. What do you think Agrippa and Festus thought of Paul that day, and why do you think they thought that way? Could the same be said for you and I?

### **Family Worship Questions**

#### 1. Read Acts 26:24-32 & Discuss:

- What is Festus' reaction to Paul? Have you ever had someone think you are "out of your mind" for believing in Christ? Why do you think people find it strange that we believe?
- What was Paul's desire for Agrippa and all who heard him give his testimony? Who are the people in your life that you desire that they would believe the gospel? What are ways you could share your testimony or the gospel with them?
- Parent/guardians: Take this opportunity to write down these names and then as a family pray for these people.

#### 2. Sing: *Behold Our God*.

#### 3. Pray.

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# The Voyage to Jerusalem: Prophecies, Persecution and Priorities

Acts 21:1-16

## Community Group Questions

1. Paul stopped in a few cities on his route to Jerusalem. Why do you think he made these stops? How does Luke describe Paul's relationship to the believers in these cities?
2. How do the relationships between these believers and Paul shed light on our relationships with other believers? What are we missing if we are not involved in the lives of other believers?
3. We know from Acts 20:22-23 that Paul was aware that God called him to go to Jerusalem and that it would be difficult. Can you think of examples in your life where you knew God was calling you to do something difficult and needed this kind of resolve to do it?
4. By the end of this passage, everyone chose to surrender to God's plan. Compare this response to Jesus' response in Luke 22:39-46. How do we develop the resolve to say "Let the will of the Lord be done." (Acts 21:14 ESV).

## Family Worship Questions

1. Read Acts 21:1-16 & Discuss:
  - What does it mean when we are willing to die for something? How important is that person or thing? Are there people or things in your life that you would give your life for?
  - Read Philippians 1:21-26 and Acts 21:13. How important was the gospel to Paul? Why is it that important?

- God's will for Paul was to go to Jerusalem and suffer for the sake of the gospel. We are also called to share the gospel even when it hurts. In what ways might we suffer when we share the gospel at school, or work, or on teams? How does the gospel help us to do this?
- Read Matthew 5:43-45. How are we to respond to those who persecute us? Take some time to pray for people who persecute Christians for sharing the gospel. Pray that the persecuted Christians would be strengthened to continue to share the gospel.

2. Sing: *All I Have Is Christ*

3. Pray.