

## Walking in the Light, Ephesians 5:7-8

- I. Together but Separate
  - A. I know that sounds like a complete contradiction
  - B. But that is what we are called to be — in the world, not of the world
    - 1. We are no longer citizens of this world, but with the saints in the household of God — Ephesians 2:19
    - 2. We have been delivered from darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God — Colossians 1:13
  - C. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV); Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
  - D. We are no longer walking in darkness, but we are walking as children of light
- II. Partners
  - A. Ephesians 5:7–8 (ESV); <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
  - B. Having a share with another in some possession or relationship <sup>1</sup>
  - C. We are partners
    - 1. In the divine nature
    - 2. 2 Peter 1:3–4 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
    - 3. In God’s promises
    - 4. Ephesians 3:6 (ESV); This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.
    - 5. In Christ’s sufferings
    - 6. 1 Peter 4:13 (ESV); But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
    - 7. In Holiness
    - 8. Hebrews 12:10 (ESV); For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
    - 9. In the Heavenly calling
    - 10. Hebrews 3:1 (ESV); Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession,
    - 11. In God’s glory
    - 12. 1 Peter 5:1 (ESV); So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed:
    - 13. We are co-heirs with Christ
    - 14. Romans 8:16–17 (ESV); <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
  - D. We cannot be partners with both Satan and God — we have to make a choice!
  - E. This is an admonition against partnering with Satan, to remain partnered with God
  - F. We been been partners with Satan, “for at one time you were darkness” (verse 8)
  - G. Now it is time to “walk as children of light” (verse 8)
- III. Fruit of Light
  - A. Ephesians 5:9–10 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 958.

- B. Paul defines this fruit as “all that is good and right and true)
    - 1. These things do not have shifting definitions
    - 2. ‘Good’ is the same word used in Galatians 5:22, the fruit of the Spirit — “positive moral quality characterized esp. by interest in the welfare of others” <sup>2</sup>
    - 3. God’s word is truth, Jesus is Truth (and the Word) — they remain the same from before time began until after time ends
    - 4. Right — this is the same word as righteous
    - 5. In our minds it is being right with God
    - 6. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV); For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
    - 7. But God has given us his righteousness
  - C. We no longer have to worry about change (this world worries a lot about changing truth)
    - 1. News headline — “United Methodist delegates reject recognizing gay marriage, threatening split in church” — by only 56% of the vote <sup>3</sup>
    - 2. Goodness, truth, and righteousness does not change!
    - 3. Hebrews 13:7–9 (ESV); <sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup> Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.
  - D. If we walk as children of light, then we create the fruit of light — all that is good, truth, and right
- IV. Expose
- A. Ephesians 5:11–14 (ESV); <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
  - B. “Take no part” — Our challenge is to stand up to the world’s truth with God’s truth — to live out God’s truth in the world of changing truths — to be in the world, but not of the world
  - C. By living out God’s truth while we live in the world, we expose the world’s truth as ‘works of darkness’
  - D. “We are children of light and ought to walk in the light. Darkness produces sin and lies; the fruit of the light (a better translation of v. 9) is goodness, righteousness, and truth. The light cannot compromise with the darkness; it can only expose it.” <sup>4</sup>
- V. Awake!
- A. Wake up, O Sleeper, words and music by Ken Young (1989) — 931
  - B. Walk as children of Light

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 4.

<sup>3</sup> Fedschun, Travis. “United Methodist Delegates Reject Recognizing Gay Marriage.” Fox News, FOX News Network, 26 Feb. 2019, 9:00 PM, [www.foxnews.com/us/united-methodist-delegates-reject-recognizing-gay-marriage](http://www.foxnews.com/us/united-methodist-delegates-reject-recognizing-gay-marriage).

<sup>4</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the New Testament (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1992), 551.