Don't Stumble In Darkness when You Can

WALK IN THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8-14

6-21-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***Don't stumble in darkness when you can walk in the light!"**

I. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>BEAR FRUIT</u> (v. 9)

II. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>PLEASE GOD</u> (v. 10)

III. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>STAND OUT</u> (v. 11a)

IV. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>EXPOSE EVIL</u> (v. 11b-13)

V. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>REFLECT CHRIST</u> (v. 14)

CONCLUSION:

Don't Stumble In Darkness when You Can

WALK IN THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8-14

6-21-2023

INTRODUCTION:

***Don't stumble in darkness when you can walk in the light!"**

I. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL _____ _____ (v. 9)

II. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL _____ _____ (v. 10)

III. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL _____ _____ (v. 11a)

IV. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL _____ _____ (v. 11b-13)

V. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL _____ _____ (v. 14)

CONCLUSION:

Don't Stumble In Darkness when You Can
WALK IN THE LIGHT

Ephesians 5:8-14

6-21-2023

INTRODUCTION: **V. 8**

"For" - Paul gives a big reason why Christians should not be *"partakers"* (v. 7) with the *"children of disobedience"* (v. 6), but why we should imitate God instead (v. 1).

And the reason is because we were formerly (in our unconverted state) *"darkness,"* but now we are *"light in the Lord"*

One word describes the condition (life, activity, philosophies, path, purpose) of a lost (unsaved) person: darkness

Though we saw physical light, we were blind to spiritual light.

Our minds were blinded by Satan (SEE: II Cor. 4:3-4)

"But their minds were blinded" (SEE: II Cor. 3:14-17)

The believer, however, has been illuminated.

His light has been turned on! His eyes are open.

The Bible refers to us as having been *"once (and for all) enlightened"* (Heb. 6:4). *"Ye were illuminated"* (Heb. 10:32)

"Ye" - The Ephesian believers.

No one is "born a Christian." No one has "been a Christian all their life"

No, prior to salvation, everyone was in darkness.

"But now" - in contrast to our past life. ILLUS: the song:

"The things I used to do, don't do them anymore
The things I used to say, don't say them anymore
The things I used to think, don't think them anymore
The places I used to go, don't go there anymore
The songs I used to sing, don't sing them anymore
The sin I used to commit, don't commit them anymore
There's been a great change since I've been born again!

"Are ye <u>light</u>" - *"ye are the light of the world"* (Mt. 5:14-16)

"In the Lord" - Our light is not manufactured by ourselves; rather, any true light we have, we get from the One who is Light *"and in Him is no darkness at all"* (NOTE: I John 1:5-7)

We are reflectors of His light via our position *"in Christ"*

"Walk as children of light" - Conduct your life as a child of light (a phrase that is practically synonymous with "child of God"). One aspect of being an imitator of God (v. 1) is not only walking *"in love"* (v. 2) or walking *"in wisdom"* (v. 15), but walking *"in <u>light</u>"* (NOTE: love, wisdom, and light are 3 attributes of God).

To walk as children of light means:

--"To live before the eyes of God, not hiding anything" (Wiersbe, p. 127; Note Wiersbe's X-ray inspection illus: p. 128)
--"To live before the eyes of the world, giving direction

A child of light has no business in darkness!

***Don't stumble in darkness when you can walk in the light!"**

I. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>BEAR FRUIT</u> (v. 9)

"Spirit" - the critical text has "light" instead

Since the Spirit is God, He is therefore light, and these fruits both stem from the Spirit who is light.

"The fruit of the Spirit" - the Spirit is the One who produces fruit in us (Gal. 5:22). His fruit is never darkness (sin, evil, or disobedience).

Only when you walk in the light can the Spirit produce:
"Goodness" (moral badness is a characteristics of darkness)
"Righteousness" (injustice is a characteristic of darkness)
"Truth" (lies are a characteristic of darkness)

When God's <u>truth</u> is our standard and God's <u>righteousness</u> is our practice, God's <u>goodness</u> will flow out to benefit others.

When we fail to walk in God's light (by obedience to His Word), our lives are <u>barren, empty, vain, futile, and fruitless</u> (Cp. The Vine and the branches - Jn. 15).

Just as the light of the <u>S-U-N</u> produces fruit on the vine or tree, so the Light of the <u>S-O-N</u> produces fruit on the Christian.

II. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>PLEASE GOD</u> (v. 10)

"Proving" - to put something to the test (by exposing it to light). i.e. to examine by scrutinizing with spiritual discernment, and then to approve it, if it passes the examination.

Only one who is open to the light of God's word can use that light to examine practices (EX: music), philosophies, and behavior, and determine what would please God.

"Acceptable" - "well-pleasing"

Does God approve of your attitudes or activities?

Is He pleased with your entertainment (music standards) or your person life (your dress, etc.)?

No one who is in darkness has any capability to discern what would please God.

"Unto the Lord" - <u>Not</u> what is acceptable to <u>society</u> (Phil Donohue or Mayor Dinkins) nor what is acceptable to <u>public opinion</u> (Gallop Polls)

III. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>STAND OUT</u> (v. 11a)

"Have <u>no</u> fellowship" - God does no ever allow His children to share in someone else's evil

Have <u>no</u> part with their lies, stealing, sexual misconduct, vulgar speech, wicked entertainment, etc.

"What communion hath light with darkness?" (II Cor. 6:14) NONE!

"Unfruitful" - All darkness produces is weeds, thorns, and thistles which are good for nothing but for burning (Heb. 6:8).

IV. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>EXPOSE EVIL</u> (v. 11b-13)

"But rather reprove them" - lit. *"expose them"* by your light! Bring their wicked, dark, hideous, hidden things to light [Not necessarily by speaking about their sinful practices (v. 12)] but by just doing right yourself.

Your obedience will do more to bring people's evil to light than any seminar on the subject.

This is why people living in darkness don't like being around people living in light. They love their sin, and don't appreciate how your light rebukes their darkness.

What many do in secret (in hiding) is too shameful (indecent, dishonorable and vile) to even speak about.

Certain practices should never be described in detail because of how warped, debasing, and perverted they are.

The motto "Tell it like it is!" is not always the beset rule for public speaking.

Some filth should not be spoken about in detail lest Satan use that good intention for an advertisement or promotion for his perversions.

"Some preachers enjoy revelling in the sensational, so much so that their sermons excite appetites and give to the innocent more information than they need" (Wiersbe, p. 129)

Paul said, *"But yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil"* (Rom. 16:19)

"Reproved" - <u>exposed</u>

"Manifest" - to be made <u>visible</u>

"Only <u>light</u> can make <u>bright</u> what is not <u>right</u> in God's <u>sight</u>" (V.S.)

Only light can expose that which needs to be seen.

People don't see their sin until God's Word exposes it.

Others will often never see what is destroying their life unless your life exposes it by your light.

V. *When you walk in the light,*
YOUR LIFE WILL <u>REFLECT CHRIST</u> (v. 14)

"Wherefore" - Because more light is needed to expose the dark, hidden ills and evils of society, more light-bearers are needed.

"He saith" - a paraphrase of Isaiah 60:1

"Sleepest" - spiritual sleep

"Dead" - spiritually dead (those who are *"dead in trespasses and sins"* - Eph. 2:1)

"Christ shall give thee light" -

The <u>source</u> of our light - *"Christ"*

The <u>certainty</u> of our light - *"shall"*

The <u>graciousness</u> of our light - *"give"*

The <u>personal acquisition</u> of our light - *"thee"*

CONCLUSION:

Every Christian is a "beacon", "lighthouse", "lampstead" for Christ.

How bright are you <u>beaming</u>?

Is your light hidden under a bushel of sin? Or is it unashamedly shining out on the lampstand?

Shine, Christian, shine!

You are the only light those in darkness will ever see!

ILLUS: Song "Stepping in the Light"