

“WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT”

Isaiah 60:1-3; Ephesians 5:3-14

Solid doctrinal instruction and clear moral teaching are both vitally important. Eph 1-3/4-6. Rom 2:15; Acts 15:29

I. WALKING IN DARKNESS MERITS THE WRATH OF GOD

A. Some Things Shouldn't Even Have to be Said

V. 3-4. NIV: “But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.” (5:3). Compare with tone of 4:28: “He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.” (NASB)

1) **Fornication** (*porneia*, “pornography”). Unlawful sexual intercourse and more: See Leviticus 18, 20; *Westminster Larger Catechism* 139. Story of Joe. Heb 13:4; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Cor 6:18.

2) **Uncleanness**: emphasizes impure heart perspective. Amnon (2 Sam 13:15). His unclean heart lusts for then hates her.

3) **Covetousness** or greed. Num 11:4, 34 “craving” = “greedy” in NASB. Getting all you can, even if you work for it: idolatry of \$\$\$.

B. Judgment Upon These Practitioners is Certain

V. 5-6. The same three now repeated, but instead of sins talking about people dominated or ruled by these sins. You are what you do, not what you say you believe (Rev 21:7-8).

C. Don't Participate; Expose!

V. 7, 11-12. Not to be your friends or close associates. “Expose” = verbal rebuke, as in Matthew 18:15. Story of Josephine.

II. WALKING IN THE LIGHT BEARS HOLY SPIRIT FRUIT

A. Out of Darkness into Light!

V. 8a. 2:4-5. The source of light is the Lord Jesus Christ: *you are light in the Lord*. Not of us. Example of Apostle Paul.

B. The Walk of Light Bears Fruit

V. 8b-12. You do the walking – living a life of consistent obedience. Spirit produces the fruit. *Goodness* – doing good to others, or being generous. *Righteousness* – Joseph was going to divorce Mary as the Law would direct; being a good man he was going to do it privately. *Truth* – the child of light deals with reality, the way things are from God's perspective. Opposite the unfruitful works of darkness (v. 11).

Exposing darkness can also happen “naturally”; it is the nature of light to reveal or make manifest (v. 13). Story of Christian in south China who had his rice field on a hill. “Doing the right thing is not enough. We have to do more than the right thing.”

C. Sleepy Christians Need a Fresh Enlightenment

Therefore – Paul's signal that he was about to quote Scripture at 4:8 – *Therefore He says: "awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." (5:14)*. But no OT text; it's probably a hymn used in early Christian worship. A Christ-centered interpretation of text like Isaiah 60:1-3. They need a fresh enlightening from Christ. They need to draw near to God and God will draw near to them. The prayer for enlightenment (1:15-23) fits right in here.

Conclusion

From that sacred tree flow beams of love, truth and mercy. Who sought you when you were still in the midnight of your sin? Who could have passed you by in justice, but instead died for you in mercy? Whose Spirit raised you from a godless and hopeless way of living to walk in newness of life? It is high time to awake! Arise from your lethargy and Christ will give you light.