

# Children of Light

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

## Introduction:

- A. Ephesians 5 is all about change. It teaches us that we are different from the world, and since we are different, we must live lives that are different.
  - 1. In verse 1, we are commanded to live like God.
  - 2. In verse 2, we are commanded to love like God.
  - 3. In verses 3-7, we are commanded to leave this world's ways behind.
  - 4. Beginning in verse 8, the Apostle tells us why we are to be different.
- B. As we live in this world, we must remember:
  - 1. 1Peter 2:11; Heb. 11:13-16
  - 2. There is always pressure for Christians to be more like the world
  - 3. There is overt pressure from advertising, entertainment, and other media for us to do what the world does.
  - 4. There is subtle pressure from people we love who would like to see us behave a little more like them.
  - 5. There is pressure from within. From flesh reaches out for the things that are forbidden to it. Even for Christians, there is still a part that loves sin and chafes under the demands of holiness.
  - 6. Gal. 5:16-17; Rom.12:1-2

## I. HOW WE ARE CHANGED

- A. What we were - Eph. 5:8; 2Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-3
- B. What we are - We are light in the Lord.
  - 1. Col. 1:13; 1Peter 2:9; 2Cor. 5:17

## II. HOW WE ARE CHARACTERIZED

- A. The fruit of the spirit - Eph. 5:9-10 - How is it manifested?
  - 1. It is seen in goodness - "uprightness of heart and life."
    - a. deals with our relationship with others
  - 2. It is seen in righteousness - our standing before the Lord.
    - a. deals with our relationship with God
  - 3. It is seen in truth - honesty, reliability, and trustworthiness.
    - a. deals with our relationship with ourselves
- B. Fruit is the unfolding of life. It is the product of the process of living according to the spiritual man and not the fleshly man

## III. HOW WE ARE COMMANDED

- A. Eph. 5:11 - These phrase "have no fellowship" means "do not be a partaker of or a sharer with." Christians are not partakers of things that are evil, even by association.
  - 1. 1Thes. 5:22 - If we are not in the world at all, we cannot teach the lost
  - 2. Eph. 4:25-31, 5:3-6; 1Cor. 5:9-11; 1John 4:4

#### **IV. HOW WE ARE COMMISSIONED**

- A. Eph. 5:11-13 - Our responsibility to abstain from sin goes farther than simply not doing sinful things; we are commanded to reprove them.
- B. We are responsible to address sin by exposing it to the light of God.
  - 1. Light makes things manifest, or easy to see. When we walk in the light, it makes the evil of the world around us more visible.
  - 2. Matt. 5:14-16

#### **V. HOW WE ARE CALLED**

- A. Eph. 5:14-17 - Too often we think sinners need to wake up and heed the call. The apostle Paul is telling Christians they need to wake up and heed the call.
  - 1. Rom. 13:11-14

#### **Conclusion:**

A. There was a great fire in Edinburgh, Scotland, in which people hurried to exit the building through a passage that led to the street. They were almost safe when a rush of smoke met them, blowing into the passage from the outside. The smoke concealed the light just outside, and prevented them from seeing the only chance they had of escape. In the darkness, they did not know that safety was just a few feet ahead. Instead of running straight through the smoke, they entered a door into a room that seemed safe. But soon all the oxygen was exhausted and they all suffocated. If only they had seen the light they might have lived. It is the Lord's will that His children be light in a dark world. It is the power of His light within us that will highlight the differences between us and the lost world around us.