

Walk as Children of the Light
(Ephesians 5:6-21)
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One of Scripture's biggest metaphors for talking about our condition is the contrast between light and darkness. We understand this, but it becomes even more clear when we experience true darkness.

Paul uses this powerful image to help the Ephesians – and us – know more about life in Christ

1. You once *were* darkness (not just *in* the dark)

This was our identity – and it is a harsh reality.

But seeing that truth helps us appreciate what we are now in Christ

Jesus, the light of the world shines in the darkness

Jesus, the light of the world, reflects in us

By grace, we are the light of the world.

2. In Christ's light, we see our human condition even more clearly, and it is worse than we thought.

How should we respond to this new vision of reality?

We expose the unfruitful works of darkness and take no part in them.

This often brings worldly criticism.

Many people responded to Jesus with this same criticism and rejection

3. Jesus would be justified in attacking those who left, but instead turns his attention to his disciples. "Do you want to go away as well?" Today he asks us the same question

Peter responds in faith. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God. (John 6:68-69).

4. Walking in the light of Christ

Risen with Christ, his light shines on us (Eph 5:14)

We walk not as unwise, but as wise (Eph 5:16) and remember that "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10)

We rejoice in things that are "good, right and true" – that's where the "fruit of the light is found" (Eph 5:9)

We make the best use of time in these evil days (Eph 5:16)

We "understand what the will of the Lord is" (Eph 5:17) by study of his word

We don't turn to the world's debauchery, but are filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:18)

We worship together, “addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (Eph 5:19-20)

We submit to one another (Eph 5:21)

We might object that these words hardly describe us sometimes. Perhaps, hearing a list like that makes you think that we live more in darkness than light. Sinner-saints will always think such things.

So Paul addresses us not by means of what we do but for what we are. Don’t dwell on what you were but on what you are. You *are light in Lord*. Walk in that light.