

Children of Light Rather than Children of Darkness

Eph. 5:1-21

Introduction:

- A. Children are expected to follow (imitate) their parents. (v.1)
 - 1. From “MIMETES” (Noun); “MIMEOMAI” (Verb) cf. Eng. “Mimic”, “Mimeograph”.
 - 2. Jesus made a distinction between “Children” and mere “descendants”. (John 8: 37-45) Pharisees may have been Abraham’s descendants or seed, but they were not Abraham’s children because they did not imitate him.
- B. As Children of light (v. 8 cf. “God is light” - 1 John 1:5) we are to display some marked **contrasts** to darkness.

Discussion:

- I. Bible Love Rather Than Sinful Love (vv. 2, 3, 5)**
 - A. Bible love is primarily self-sacrificing (vv. 2)
 - B. Sinful love is primarily self-gratifying (v. 3,5).
- II. Fitting Speech Rather Than Foul Speech (4, 6).**
 - A. Thanksgiving rather than such unbecoming speech (v. 4)
 - B. Words of value and truth, rather than emptiness and deception. (v. 6: cf. 2 Peter 2:18-22)
- III. The Fruit Of Light Rather Than Unfruitful Works of Darkness (vv. 8-11)**
 - A. The fruit of light (ASV) is in “all goodness, righteousness and truth” (v. 9)
 - B. The unfruitful works of darkness would be the opposite: Evil, unrighteousness, and error.
- IV. Expose The Works of Darkness Rather Fellowshiping Them. (v. 11-13)**
 - A. Must not fellowship the works of darkness.
 - 1. Not directly — by being partaker with them (v. 7)
 - 2. Not indirectly — lending encouragement to the action (cf. Gal. 2:9; 2 John 9-11).
 - 3. Not by enabling.
 - B. Must expose the works of darkness.
 - 1. Not enough to withhold or break fellowship, must expose.
 - 2. Expose the real nature of the works of darkness.
 - a. Sin and error thrives under cover darkness (deceit and secrecy).
 - b. Lovers of darkness hate the exposure of light (cf. John 3:19-20).
 - 3. Exposure often requires being specific (cf. 3 John 9).
 - a. Easy to oppose “sin”, “error”, “false teachers”
 - b. But not so easy to expose specific sin, at specific place, at specific time, by specific person.
 - C. Exposure requires effort on our part.
 - 1. Easier to accept a label than examine contents (cf. “Brother”, “church of Christ”).
 - 2. Easier to label than to really expose.
- V. Walk Wisely rather than Walking Unwisely. (v. 15-17)**
 - A. By redeeming the time. (To “buy up”; idea is use time wisely while it is available)
 - B. By understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Requires Study and effort)
- VI. Filled with Spirit Rather than Filled With Wine. (vv. 18-21)**
 - A. Being filled with wine brings dissipation.
 - B. Being filled with the Spirit brings singing and thanksgiving. (cf. Col. 3:15,16).

Conclusion:

- A. Whose child are you? Have you been born again?
- B. Whom do you imitate as dear children? Darkness or light?