

## **Ephesians 5:8–14**

### **" Light that Walks Fruitfully, Studies Diligently, and Exposes Fearlessly"**

***By God's Spirit of adoption in us, we are to walk fruitfully as children of light. This requires studying diligently to know as much as we possibly can of what pleases the Lord. And, when living this way threatens to be uncomfortable because it exposes those who are darkness, we must be willing to do that exposing—both grateful for our own having been exposed at some point and hoping that by exposing others through us, Christ will be transforming others from being darkness into being light.***

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are welcome to listen to the audio recording, which you may find via [tinysa.com/hopewellarp](https://tinysa.com/hopewellarp))**

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Fusions chapter 5, our portion is verses 8 through 14, let's pray.

Our father in heaven how we thank you. That while we were still sinners Christ died for us. And if when we were ungodly and unrighteous. You gave Christ to die for us and he laid down his life for us how much more are you father son and holy spirit sure.

To continue and to complete the work that you have thus begun in us. And so we come to you and that biblical certainty to pray in the Holy Spirit. To pray according to what we know from your spirits word. And independence upon your spirits work. That you would help us now.

As we hear your word. And conform us to Christ unto the glory of the Father. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen. Ephesians five beginning in verse eight and going through verse 14. These are God's words. For you were once darkness. But now you are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth. Finding out what acceptable to the Lord. And. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. Pretty shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light. For whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore, he says awake. You who sleep arise from the dead and Christ will give you light. So far the reading of God's inspired and inherent word. We're given three instructions in this passage one is to walk a certain way one is to find certain things out and the third is to have no fellowship, but rather expose.

So the first is to walk as children of light. He started out the chapter by saying be imitators of God as dear children and walk in love and the same spirit who is carrying along the apostle Paul as he gives us this passage Carries along the apostle. John in first John chapter 1 where he says that God is light and in him as no darkness at all and that we are to walk in the light.

But it's not just that we walk as those who have been given light from God to understand certain things but it's better than that because we started out worse than be merely being in darkness. And without understanding what does he say and the beginning of our passage he says for you were once darkness?

People are not. Naturally good or even naturally mostly bad with a little bit of good in them. Naturally outside of Christ we are. Darkness. So the bad news is worse than our flesh is ordinarily willing to admit until the Lord by His Spirit attending His Word brings us to that conviction, but the good news is better than what it would be if we were just once in darkness because we have gone from becoming darkness to becoming light from becoming enemies of God and strangers to the life of God as He says in the previous chapter to becoming dear children of God.

And so he says walk, As children of light. And that means walk as a as an outgrowing of the work that the spirit is producing in you. Because the spirit is for us the spirit of his son whom he sent into our hearts the apostle Paul says in Galatians and he is for us the spirit of adoption the same apostle says.

And so he's the spirit who bears in us that family resemblance that we've been called to and commanded. He is the spirit who bears this fruit of all goodness. All righteousness and all truth and we are to live in a manner before God that shows that we have his spirit in us that we have been adopted as his children that he has taken those who used to be darkness and turned them into light.

And so the way that we live the choices that we make should be according to this marvelous transformation that God has given. But in order to walk in all goodness, that is everything that is consistent with the character of God and all right. Eousness that is everything that is consistent with the judgments of God and all truth that is everything that is consistent with the instruction the wisdom of God.

If we are to walk in that way, we're going to need to do some theological work and that brings us to the second instruction not just walking in our passage but finding out what is acceptable to the Lord finding out what pleases God. We want to know everything that is good and everything that is right.

And everything that is true. Why? Because these things please are God. Because this is what the Holy Spirit produces in those whom he joins to Jesus by faith. And so believers ought to be and we aren't always or is that remaining sin there is that remaining fleshliness that's why the Holy Spirit gives us these words is to instruct us believers ought to be eager diligent theologians finding out everything we possibly can that pleases.

God never being satisfied with with good enough or the saddest glow or or especially not comparing ourselves to others. But always finding out whatever God's word says eager to do those those personal devotions this family devotions to come on the Lord's day and hear preaching and teaching to be instructed so that we can find out more of what pleases our Lord to walk as children of light much like many of you children love to find out whatever pleases mommy or whatever pleases daddy because that smile is worth everything to you.

And every new thing you can find out that mommy or daddy likes you like to do obviously not in tirely as you should and yet even in our flesh God has built in that desire in large part in you so that we will understand what he means here about finding out what is acceptable to the Lord so we're to walk as his children in order to do so we have to find out what is acceptable to him and in order that we would do what we find out we have to over.

Come a tendency and that is a desire to have fellowship with the world. Because there are still many people who are darkness. And darkness doesn't like being exposed and you've been in those situations where they're doing things or they're saying things and you know that you can't participate but there's that tension.

Because if you don't laugh at the joke, or if you don't go along with you know, making fun of that that person or if you if you say something about the way they just used your lord's name or if you have to walk away because this isn't what you're redeemer has made this day for and that doesn't please him or any of those things there is a great discomfort isn't there?

You want to have fellowship you want to connect you may even be like. And think well this will give me opportunity to reach out to these people of sorrow. Righteous light whose soul was tormented. Peter tells us by the Holy Spirit about what he experienced day by day there and the Lord knows that you have that tension and so he says have no fellowship with.

And we shouldn't have fellowship with darkness. Right but it's interesting he says have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. You see you are to interact with the world but you're to interact with the world as light and when it when push comes to shove and the difference between light and darkness comes to a head and it will if you have an action with those who are darkness, you're going to be a point at which you say, oh.

This is going to expose the darkness and it is going to be uncomfortable and at that point he says expose had no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them furnace shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secrets as remember the root of all that these people do yes, sometimes they do things add an outward conformity with with what God says is right and with God says is good and what God says is true and you can do and be along with them and those things.

But the root of the unconverted person is self-service not God service it is not love of God with all the heart soul mind and strength it is not loving the brethren as Christ has has loved us it is not loving their neighbor as themselves and often what comes out of that root in their hearts are the things that they do in secret that our say shameful that you wouldn't even speak.

Them. So when they do certain things in public and interaction with you remember where it's coming from and don't have fellowship with that you keep bearing the fruit of the spirit and don't participate in works that are unfruitful that are not coming out of the root of new life in you everything you do everything you say everything you feel everything you think as someone who belongs to Jesus Christ ought to be a fruit of the work that the Holy Spirit is doing in you.

So don't be afraid of the tension because light is going to have to expose darkness at some point and you can be happy about it even if they aren't yet. Because you're grateful that one day, however it happened, maybe you don't even remember that day you got exposed to yourself as darkness.

All things that are exposed are made manifest by the light and now we have to correct translation here because almost all the English translations change whatever makes manifest into an active that's active, it's actually passive in the original whatever is made manifest is light. Because that's how those who start out at darkness, it's the only way to start out as darkness, that's the only way we can become like.

Is by realizing that we are darkness realizing that Christ has lightened himself and that he has born the penalty for what we are and what we have done in ourselves, aren't you grateful that your darkness was exposed to you so that you could turn from your sin to trust in Jesus and belonged in.

Well, that's how darkness is made into light. And if you and I are unwilling to suffer the tension the discomfort of exposing darkness, we're also being unwilling to participate in God's making

those who are darkness into light. You see Jesus provides the power he wakes up the sleeping  
verse 14, he raises the dead verse 14, he gives light verse 14.

And he does so to those who are being exposed as darkness it is those who are exposed that  
become light and so we're not just grateful for the day that we were exposed we're also willing  
to be part of his exposing others because we have confidence in him that he is going to wake  
some who are sleeping and he is going to raise some who are dead and he is going to turn more  
who are darkness into life.

Therefore instead of being embarrassed. Not to be part of what the darkness is doing we are  
eager to be part of what Jesus is doing. So three things walk his children of light. Finding out what  
is pleasing to the Lord and not having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but  
rather exposing.

Because that is part of what the Lord uses as he is about to wake in the sleeping raised the dead  
and give them life amen, let's pray.

Oh Lord we pray for your help with all of these things. Because we are often forgetful of the  
marvelous transformation that you have made and therefore not as glad and amazed that we  
can walk as children of life. And we are often. Complacent and lazy to find out more of what  
pleases you.

For even what we know if we do so poorly. When there seems to be so much and that which we  
do we are overly impressed with as far as ourselves are concerned and not so amazed as we  
should be that you are the one who's doing it in us so we pray that you would help us to walk we  
pray that you would help us to be diligent and finding out more what pleases you.

Lord is especially this last one that that we have the hardest time with. So we pray that you  
would stir up and us gratitude for having been exposed in the process of your transforming us  
and turning us into light and children of light. We pray that you would give us confidence that  
you are still doing this work.

So that when the moment of tension comes you would grab our attention. As to the opportunity  
to be those who not through pride. But through following and belonging to and loving and  
pleasing Jesus. Might be used by Him to expose. And trusting Him to give light. We do pray Lord,  
especially for our loved ones family close friends acquaintances who are still darkness aliens  
from the life of God.

Sons of disobedience children of wrath. Have mercy we pray and be pleased to so make us walk  
that they would be exposed and give us an opportunity to answer for the hope that is in us and  
bring them to the light and to turn them into light we ask.

All of this in Jesus name. Amen.