

Ephesians 5:6-14 – Live in Light

Calvin, Handfuls, TSK, GreekLexicon, PNT, JFB, Geneva, Poole, Family, Rienecker, Robertson, Trapp, Clarke, Henry, Gill, Barnes,

Brother and sisters in Jesus Christ: Your Christian **life must be characterized by love**- your love for God and your love for man. Your **love must be displayed; there is no secret love**. You **love must be based on God's law and characterized by obedience to God's law**. **Law and love are inseparable**. These were some of the things you heard the last time.

After hearing about your need to **live in love**, today you will hear about your need to be **living in light**. And there is good logic to this. You can't love unless you are guided by light. The light is the message of the Word of God.

Our headings are:

Purpose of the Light

Illustration of the Light

How to use the Light

Our goals are: **That you will live in the light of Jesus so others can see the light in you and glorify the Father in heaven**.

Purpose of the Light

6 **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things the **wrath of God comes** upon the sons of disobedience. 7 **Therefore do not be partakers** with them.

1. The Apostle Paul wanted to remind the Ephesian Christians they could be fooled and therefore prevented from loving God and man as they should!

It was not uncommon in Ephesus for Gnostics to try to defend their indefensible philosophy and lure Christians from truth.

Colossians 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

2. How would the Ephesians be deceived?

The Apostle Paul knew Christians could be deceived by the Gnostics and others with "empty words."

The phrase "empty words" is important. Why? **Wicked people don't often push Christians to blatantly break God's law.** They simply water it down God's Word...or reinterpret it to mean something slightly different from what God meant. It is like watching a rice shell with no rice grain in it; it is empty. So they would say, for instance,

"Fornication is not so bad,"

"Sabbath is for worship AND for you-time,"

"Stealing is wrong, but stealing from the government (which is thief) is not bad."

These "shells" made people **think the grain was worth eating!** These liars were charming so men fell for their lies.

3. The Apostle Paul then told the Ephesians if they were deceived by empty words they would bring judgment on their heads.

You can see this today in many churches that have fallen by the wayside. (Try driving through the Campbellville area west of Toronto as see all those shells of churches!) The Apostle Paul did not want Christians to be destroyed with the wicked. He knew that **those who shared with the sin of the wicked will also share in their suffering.** And this suffering could be in this life and surely in the life to come.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. **Walk as children of light**

4. The Apostle Paul then reminded the Ephesians that they already had light in them and should not be fooled by fake light.

So the light (word of truth) which the Christian has been given and in which he lives (the Gospel) would help him to expose the deceptions. Yes, Christians were in darkness before, but now they know better. **Their minds have been enlightened.** And further, **they always have God's Word to shine on their feet and their paths.** When you don't see the black widow spiders you don't think much of them, but when the light shines on them you know you have to kill them. So if Christians turn the light off, they would be following those who would be destroyed, those who follow the Prince of Darkness.

5. Lessons:

a. If you leave men in sin (their darkness) they will go to hell to face God's eternal judgment.

b. So guide others to the Light. (Make sure you have it first.) The world needs light. Don't watch your friends go to hell.

Romans 2:19 and are confident that you yourself are a **guide to the blind**, a light to those who are in darkness...

Engage your Muslim friends. Invite them to your home or church. When was the last time you gave someone a Bible?

c. Traditions are not light. The Gospel is light. Don't confuse the two. Sometimes you might want people to conform to your traditions...but you are commanded to make people conform to the Gospel. You may not like how someone dresses for church, maybe they don't wear a tie, but that is not the essence of the Gospel. Keep the Gospel the focus. If they love Jesus and serve him, that's what really matters.

Illustration of the Light

9 (for the fruit of the Spirit (light) is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

1. As Light, you produce food: Goodness, righteousness, and truth.

The NKJV Bible **interprets the text here rather than translate it** when it says “fruit of the Spirit.” The text says “fruit of the light.” That is the context. Light (working of the Holy Spirit) produces food. What is the food that light produces: **goodness, righteousness, and truth.** You shine truth on others!

10 **finding out** what is acceptable to the Lord.

2. When you shine God’s light (truth) on others it reveals what is real and what is not...what is good and what is not.

The non-believer will have to accept that truth or be condemned by it. If he accepts it, he too will produce food – food of goodness, righteousness, and truth.

The Christian will see what is good and hold on to it. He will hold on to Christ’s righteousness, his sacrifice, his suffering, his death, and his mediation. He will hold on to Christ’s people, serve Christ, suffer for him, pray to him, praise, and support his people.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may **prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**

3. Lessons:

a. The more you are filled with Holy Spirit, the brighter will be your light. The more you study God’s Word, the brighter will be your light. The brighter your life, the more you will see your sins and the more you will be able to help others!

b. So you won’t say, for instance, “We can get married because we love each other,” if that person is not in the kingdom of Jesus. The light of the Word will say, “No way!” You will see what is good and do it! More, when you shine that light on the wicked and he sees his sin, he will repent or be condemned.

c. What is your light like? Is it bright? There is ‘none so blind as he who would not see.’

How to use the light

11 And **have no fellowship** with the **unfruitful works** of darkness, but rather **expose them**.

1. Consistently shine the light on the wicked, expose their sins, and reject them if they would not repent.

Don’t be around them if they would not repent. Protect yourself. These men are “unfruitful” so they have no value...they are from a dark mind. They produce guilt, fear,

shame, corruption, and death.

2 Corinthians 6:14 **Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.**
For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Don't give assent to their sins.

Don't give support for their sins. It is not sufficient to say "I didn't do anything bad."
Expose them. Literally you must "**drag them to the light.**"

John 3:20 "For **everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light,** lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But **he who does the truth comes to the light,** that his deeds may be **clearly seen,** that they have been done in God."

12 For it is **shameful** even to speak of those things which are done by them **in secret.**

2. You have to use the light because the wicked are so lawless.

The wicked like the night because the 'night has no shame,' but God sees even in darkness! Even if no one can see their sin, it is still there. God sees it. So what happens in many Toronto parks at night, God sees. What happens when young people sin against God when they are away from their parents, God sees.

Their wickedness is often so great it is embarrassing to even speak of what they do. It is likely the Apostle Paul may be alluding to ceremonies (Bacchanalian mysteries) from eastern cultures where when one was invited into one of these dens of wickedness he were not permitted to speak about what he saw or he would be killed. Maybe that is why these were called "unspeakable mysteries." These Bacchanalian mysteries were so bad that even wicked Rome banned them.

13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

3. It is not just Apostle Paul's job to shine light on sins of the wicked, it was the Ephesians' job too.

If the Ephesian Christians did not expose sin, they were not worthy of the name to be called Light.

Philippians 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless, **children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,**

14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you **who sleep,** Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."

4. When Christians shine their light in darkness, they are calling the wicked to life again.

Christ gave you life...and he is the Light of the world...so it is no wonder that Christians

continue to do his work of calling the world to see the light. Christians have light in themselves.

Ephesians 2:1 And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

Isaiah 60:1 **Arise, shine; For your light has come!** And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

(Some believe these verses were part of a song the early church sang. Singing makes things memorable.)

The challenge was for Christians to make sure non-Christians heard the Gospel, the source of light for them.

5. Lessons:

a. Your challenge in Toronto is to see the darkness – even the most wicked darkness – and expose it in your life and in the non-believer’s life. And make sure you don’t touch it. So if you are at a funeral and someone says about a non-believer who died, “He is a peace right now,” don’t agree with him. It might be awkward, but don’t give false hope. You are the means by which the world does not sin!

b. How do you expose it? You use the Word of God – the light. Faithfully preach. Faithfully give the Gospel. Never stop!

c. Expect opposition and even persecution when you do this. Too many people want you to say that all beliefs are equally valid. But they are not...and you have no value by joining these people.

d. You have to let the Word of God remain in you so you have something to shine! If you don’t have the Word of God in you, you will not be able to shed light on sins. How many minutes did you spend reading God’s Word this past week?

e. Can you imagine what it would be like when light shines and darkness is exposed? Would that change things you do? Things you watch on TV? Things you spend your money on? The way you talk to your wife?

Conclusion:

When you use God’s Word it will lead you and others out of darkness so you can walk in safety, love like you ought to love, and ultimately bring glory to Christ.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. How well do you know the Word of God? How well are you able to explain the spirit of the Law? How well are you able to share the Gospel with someone who is in darkness? Could you summarize the Gospel in 5 minutes?

2. Let me encourage you to go into the Word of God daily. Don't just read it, but meditate on it.

3. If you want your children to walk in the way of the Lord, make sure you lead by the Word of God so it can be lamp to their feet and a light to their path.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, it doesn't matter if you think you are good, you are bad and heading to hell. God says so! But if you want God to forgive you your sins, you have to read his Word. There you will find, not only how bad you are, but also how God offers to remove your sins and make you his child.