

## **Children of Light Ephesians 5:6-10**

### **Introduction**

NJFK—worklight; black felt

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

1. Eternal Danger of Deception (6)
2. Practical Reality of Distinction (7-8a)
3. Fruitful Life of Discernment (8b-10)

### **1. Eternal Danger of Deception (6)**

<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

Let no one deceive you with empty words—  
The early church lived in a culture that rejected the Biblical teaching of sexual purity. Sexual permissiveness is not a modern trend. It's ancient, and it's pagan. Don't let anyone tell you it's just old fashioned to pursue a lifestyle of sexual purity, and that you need to get with the enlightenment of the times. Suc

words are a lie. Sexual sin has never been right, and it never will be.

Gnosticism; universalism; affirming churches

Empty words—talking falsehood does not turn lies into reality. They do not protect you from the consequences of doing wrong.

Because of such things—what things?  
vv. 3-5 Sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness (idolatry); filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking—no inheritance

The wrath of God comes—God’s settled hostility to sin and its eventual expression in divine retribution, culminating at the end of the age (Revelation) but breaking out from time to time in human history

History of Israel and Judah—sins of idolatry, sexual immorality, and child-sacrifice were chief reasons God brought judgment against them. Their being the chosen nation did not remove them from His wrath.

On the sons of disobedience—their natural-born character is to disobey  
Heart rejection of God’s definitions of right and wrong and hence the sinful behavior

## **2. Practical Reality of Distinction (7-8a)**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

Partners—participation, not so much association, else how can we take the gospel to them

These warnings are for believers. Let that sink in.

If you share in their sin, you'll share in their judgment.

Assurance of salvation is not an excuse for pursuing sin.

“If we should fall into a life of greedy immorality, we would be supplying clear evidence that we are after all idolaters, not worshippers of God, disobedient people instead of obedient, and so heirs not of heaven but of hell. The apostle gives us a solemn warning; we shall be wise to heed it.”  
John Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*, 198

For—here's the core reason not to live this way

At one time you were darkness—not just that you were in the dark. You were darkness. Darkness (deceit, death, evil) was your identity, your core character.

But now you are light in the Lord—you've been born again; your spiritual DNA has been changed; you are part of a different family with a different set of inborn characteristics.

Don't take part in what is contrary to your new nature in the Lord. Don't define yourself by your sin. Define yourself by your new identity in Christ.

### **3. Fruitful Life of Discernment (8b-10)**

Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

Walk—walk about  
Do what you are.

Children of light—your new nature is inherently one of light (light of truth, life, healing—think of all the properties of light and remember that God is light)

Fruit of the light—light has a positive effect; fruit trees need light to grow (the growing season); light reveals and purifies—the roaches go running when the light goes on

All that is good and right and true

- Moral goodness
- Righteousness—conformity to God's standards of right and wrong; includes what is moral, just, fair

- Truth—as opposed to falsehood; defined by what the Scriptures reveal to be so

Ephesians 5:10

And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Try to discern—prove and approve by testing

What is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Bring God pleasure!

Do His good pleasure.

Romans 12:1-2

<sup>1</sup> I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## **Conclusion**

1. Eternal Danger of Deception (6)
2. Practical Reality of Distinction (7-8a)
3. Fruitful Life of Discernment (8b-10)