

**Ephesians 5:7-17 Answers**  
**Walk in Light & Walk as Wise**

**Introduction:** Nancy Sinatra famously sang, “These boots are made for walking, and that’s just what they’ll do . . .” Paul, in Ephesians, wrote a lot about walking, too. Read **Ephesians 4:1-3, 17, 5:1-2, 5:8b, 5:15**. Today we are going to study walking in the light and walking as wise.

**Overview:** Ephesians 4:17 began a new section about the total transformation we have in Christ. Like an old coat, we are to take off the old man and put on the new man. This new section is about renewal. It runs from 4:17 all the way to 6:9. Paul first gave general renewal admonitions to everyone (4:17-5:21), followed by renewal admonitions to specific groups (husbands, wives, fathers, children, slaves, masters). Today’s lesson falls within the general admonitions for everyone.

**Review:**

\*\*\*\*Paul wrote that there is something of which we can be sure (5:5-6). What is it of which we may be sure? 5.5.

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\*\*\*\*1. What reasons did Paul give for us not to partner with those who practice immorality (5:7-10)? (*Reread*). See back to 5:3-6. One reason (“therefore”, 5:7) is because the wrath of God is coming against those who practice such things. Another reason is because (“for”, 5:8) we formerly were ourselves in darkness, but now we are light in the Lord and we are to walk in that light.

— Walk As Children of Light —

**What command are we given in 5:8b?**

ESV 1 John 1:5-7 . . . God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light . . . the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**According to 5:9, what is the fruit of being the children of light?** The fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

ESV John 15:8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

**2. What must we always try to discern (5:10)?** We must try to discern what is pleasing to the God. Not every situation is black and white; it takes wisdom and maturity to know the Lord’s will in some situations (the grey areas). This applies to who we marry, what job to take, where to live, which church to be involved with, to drink alcohol or to abstain, how much alcohol to drink, who you go hunting with, what you do on your weekends, etc.

\*\*\*\***What command did Paul repeat in 5:11?** (*Reread*). See 5:7. We are to take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness (that is, not partner with them, 5:7). Take no “part” is from *sun**koinoneo*; *sun* means with and *koinoneo* means to fellowship.

ESV **2 Corinthians 6:14** . . . what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

**3. In what sense are we to expose their deeds (5:11)?** See 5:13-14. “Expose” is from a Greek word used to describe a prosecuting attorney placing facts to refute an accused person’s position or statement. Thus it means to convict, refute or confute.

Things are hidden in the dark, but plainly visible in the light. Instead of cursing the darkness we are to light a candle! The Scriptures and the Holy Spirit work together in shining the light of truth on the evil deeds of darkness. God’s light exposes evil so that we can recognize it as evil.

ESV **Matthew 5:14** You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Thus, Paul could have meant that we are to allow God’s light to help us, His people, know right from wrong. On the other hand, it is possible that Paul meant we are to act as prophets, modern John the Baptists, publically condemning the evil of our society.

**4. What reason did Paul give for not taking part in the unfruitful works of darkness (5:12)?** (*Reread*). They things they do in secret are so bad it is shameful to even speak them.

**5. How can we expose evil deeds (5:11) if we can’t even speak of them (5:12)?** Perhaps we are to expose them by means of a life of goodness and righteousness and truth (Hendriksen, p. 234); words may not be necessary in many cases.

**6. What did Paul mean by “anything that becomes visible is light” (5:14a)?** Since the first part of the sentence states that anything exposed by light becomes visible, the sense may be that anything made visible by the light takes on the nature of light in the sense of being seen for what it really is. On the other hand, the NIV changes the sense of it and renders this, “it is light that makes everything visible” (sort of an explanation of 5:13).

**7. There is a quotation at the end of 5:14; what does the quote have to do with the rest of the chapter up to this point?** It is a salvation invitation! Paul seems to appeal to those whose dark sins were brought to light to wake up from the dead and let Christ shine on them! John Stott said, “Conversion is nothing less than awakening out of sleep, rising from death and being brought out of darkness into the light of Christ” (Coleman & Peace, p 51). This appeal is to the spiritual Rip Van Winkles among us!

**Note:** The quotation (5:14) is not of any one particular Old Testament verse, but rather may be a combination of several texts. It may also be some early Christian song or saying.

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\*\*\*\***With what various exhortations did Paul close this section (5:15-21)?** Paul urged his readers to walk carefully, to make the best use of time, to understand what the will of the Lord is and to be filled with the Spirit (this last topic will be covered next lesson).

— Walk As Wise —

**8. Based on 5:15, it is possible for a Christian to walk as unwise or wise. The choice is ours. Paul evidently said this with respect to how we use our time. What reason did Paul give for making the best use of time (5:16-17)?** *See Matthew 5:16.* We should make the best use of our time because the days are evil. We are to do good strategically, against a backdrop of evil.

ESV **Matthew 5:16** . . . let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

— Understand What the Will of The Lord Is —

**In 5:15-16 we are given a choice between walking as unwise or as wise. What two options are we given in 5:17?** We can be foolish or we can understand the will of the Lord.

**Fact:** There are unwise Christians and there are foolish Christians (5:15-17). Paul is saying to use our heads and not mindlessly dissipate our lives. Don't do stupid, foolish things. Use your rational powers for spiritual good.

**9. It is clear that it is God's will for us to be morally pure. That is not hard to understand. What aspect of God's will is harder to understand (5:17)?** *See back to 5:10.* What Paul refers to in 5:17 is God's will in applying His general guidelines for life (such as are found in the book of Proverbs). If you know there is a bar on Fifth Avenue and you had a drinking problem in the past, don't walk down Fifth Avenue! If you have a problem with sexual temptation, don't hang around at a public beach. Don't take a sales job in an industry that is known for pressuring its salesmen to lie. If you want to have time for ministry, don't train for a job that requires you to work 60-80 hours per week (such as a physician or UPS driver). If you want to be able to influence people for the Gospel, look for a job that will allow you to meet and work with a lot of different people (not shut up in cubicle somewhere).

**So What?**

**10. What does it mean to walk as children of light?** It means to awake from the sleep of spiritual death and let the quickening light of Christ shine on us. Being in the light means we are able to see right from wrong and discern what is pleasing to the Lord and forsake the deeds of darkness, 5:7-14.

**11. What does it mean to walk wisely?** 5:15-17

\*\*\*\* = ask this question before reading the text aloud. This is put people's minds in gear and them something to look for as the text is read. It causes focus.

**Teacher's note:** These lessons are based on the ESV and are designed for 45 minute sessions. If you can hand out or email out each lesson's questions a week in advance it will encourage people to think about the passage during the week. Copying each question in class will give importance to the questions and give incentive for the class to spend time preparing for the discussion.

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