



Living in the Light

Intro:

Mixture of instructions and motivations.

Ephesians 5:

1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

1. Be imitators of God.

- We're not following a rule book, following a person.
- Everybody follows someone.

2. How do we imitate God?

As beloved children. The Greek phrase here can also be translated here "contented children".

This word is used 61 times in the NT, very often of Jesus as the only loved son of God.

5:3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. 4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

3. List of things which are now inappropriate for someone following Jesus

i) Sexual immorality (*Pornea*)

“in times past the devil used to use a multitude of tactics to take men off course. Today he uses just one.”

J.I. Packer

“there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality”

ii) Impurity

iii) Covetousness

Normally we don't convert those who have a completely different lifestyle.

Coveting is a problem because it belies a deeper issue.

Coveting comes from a place of discontent.

Discontent about what we have, and ultimately discontent about who we are.

iv) Filthiness.

v) Foolish talk. Means empty, pointless conversations.

- Also idle speculation

On balance ask yourself are

Are your conversations constructive or destructive?

vi) Crude joking.

Includes 'loose' talk.

vii) Idolatory: loving anyone or anything more than God.

viii) Deception: Means here allowing yourself to be deceived.

“ In his (Paul’s) day Gnostics were arguing that bodily sins could be committed without damage to the soul, and with impunity. In our day there are many deceivers in the world, and even in the church. They teach that God is too kind to condemn everybody, and that everybody will get to heaven in the end, irrespective of their behaviour on earth. But their words are empty and their teaching deceitful.”

John Stott

- Sometimes we want someone to justify the way we’d like to behave, to make us feel that its ok.

The question what is “what is God saying?”

5:7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12For it is shameful even to speak of the things that

they do in secret. 13But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

*"Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."*

4. Metaphor of light and darkness.

You were darkness, and now you are light.

John 3:19 says And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."