

**Ephesians**  
***Children of Light***  
*Ephesians 5:3-14*  
August 24th, 2025

**I. Introduction — The Light of the World**

At the dawn of Christ's rising, darkness once again had settled over the earth. Mankind had returned to the chaotic darkness which God had in the beginning spoken light into. Just like at that time, when the light overwhelmed the created globe, and the darkness did not overcome it, so with Christ, the light of the World came into the world and the darkness did not overcome it. But, this is also true: the darkness is still here. The darkness did not overcome Christ, though it tried to. Yet the Sun of righteousness has not yet overcome the darkness. We still live in the midst of darkness. The light will in due course overcome the darkness, and we get to play our role in this cosmic battle: in our Lord's kingdom of light expanding and radiating into every corner of the cosmos.

The Church is God's city set on the hill. We are "the light of the world;" therefore, we are charged to: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).

**II. Text — Ephesians 5:3-14**

*3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any 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. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. 14 Therefore He says:*

*"Awake, you who sleep,  
Arise from the dead,  
And Christ will give you light."*

We were once darkness, but God had mercy on us and made us light in Him. We must now walk as children of the light. Whereas darkness is an absence, light is a \_\_\_\_\_. The sun rises and the dark, hidden world is made visible. When we come into this light and are made light in Him, the fruit of this is the natural fruit of light: as Paul said, it is goodness, righteousness, and truth.

As Christians, we are not simply playing \_\_\_\_\_. We of course have to be on guard against sons of disobedience. But we must remember that light is actually substantial. Darkness is only an absence, a deprivation. It is a great emptiness that lacks substance since it lacks the light of Christ. When light shines, the darkness flees away. The things that were once darkness, are now made visible and light in the Lord.

### III. Illuminating the World

The Church is the light of the world. Through the Church, Christ is sanctifying the world by shining His light through \_\_\_\_\_ into its darkness. He is, through us, calling all those who lie in darkness, to awake and arise from the dead, and become light in Him.

**First**, we carry this out by \_\_\_\_\_ the truth in love. Paul says we are to 'expose' the darkness, which can also be translated as 'rebuke' or 'refute'. As Christians, we are called to put off our old self, and we are to speak the truth to one another in love. This is true not only with our brothers and sisters in the household of God, but also with those outside of the Church who do not know the Lord, whether they are our neighbors, our family, our friends and coworkers. There are many ways we speak the truth in love to others in our lives:

- **Preaching** - Every Sunday the Word of God resounds from pulpits around the world. The word is preached, the Spirit of God sheds His light, and He delights to give the blind their sight. We ought to look for opportunities to bring family and friends who don't know the Lord so that they, too, might hear about the One who transformed our lives.
- **Testimony** - This also involves testifying or sharing with others what God has done in your life. Don't be ashamed or shy about what God has done in your life. Rejoice in the Lord, give Him glory, and share what He has done, and encourage others to pursue Him as well.
- **Rebuke** - This also involves gently rebuking folks in your life who remain stubborn in their sin. You should always do so with \_\_\_\_\_, and with all due honor and humility. See 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 1 Tim. 5:1-2.
- **Holy mockery** - When the darkness of sin is paraded about with pomp and seriousness, when it reigns in the public square, when the emperor has no clothes, there comes a time when the darkness of sin ought to be mocked. See 1 Kings 17:20-40.

**Second**, the Lord exposes the darkness and illuminates this world by us simply being \_\_\_\_\_. We don't just speak light, but our lives and words and work ought to shine before men. That's what our Lord had in view when He said: "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). The Church doesn't just shine light onto the world when she preaches and testifies, corrects and mocks, but fundamentally, in our very being, we *are* light.

The sun causes the darkness to flee away because it *is* the sun, because it *is* light. So also the Church fundamentally illuminates the world by being the Church, because the Church *is* light. We should not be defined by simply what we oppose. When there are things to oppose, we ought to oppose them. But, the Church isn't fundamentally a walking protest. When all darkness is overcome, the Church shall still be the Church. The world should see our good works, and these good works ought to shine upon all the light and glory of God. When we preach the Gospel, we are not only calling sinners away from their sin, but we are calling sinners into *this* kingdom.

### IV. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ