

Ephesians Bible Study

Lesson 17 Questions / Ephesians 5:8-17

Living as Children of Light

Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you through this week's lesson.

Think about it.

If you could write out your life mission statement what would it say? Use Scripture to support your answer. _____

In what ways do your daily choices and priorities reflect that you are living out this purpose? How intentional do you feel you are? _____

List some common obstacles that tend to get in the way of you living out your purpose? _____

Read Ephesians 5:8-17.

1. In chapter 5, Paul has been discussing how believers are to be imitators of God. Going back to Eph. 5:1-2, how did Jesus honor the Father, and what pattern does that set for us? _____

2. Starting out in verse 8, Paul again reminds us of our former life. What does he say we were before we became light? _____

3. Thinking back to before you became a Christian, what was it like to not only live in the darkness but to be the darkness? Do you think there is a difference between the two? (John 12:35, Matt. 12:30, Acts 26:18, Rom. 3:11, 2 Cor. 4:6, Eph. 2:1-3) _____

4. Considering the above question, why do you think it is hard for most people, even many Christians, to accept their full depravity? (2 Cor. 10:12, Rom. 10:1-3, Luke 18:9-14) _____

5. How does recognizing “**you were once darkness**” impact your daily relationships and shape your perspective on evil in the world? (1 Cor. 6:11) _____

6. As Paul moves on in verse 8 he says, “**At one time you were darkness, but now you are _____ in the Lord. Walk as children of _____.**” (ESV)

7. Notice Paul does not say we are just now in the light. No, rather he says we have become light. There is a difference. This means our entire nature has been changed to light because Christ has come to reside within us. (Matt. 5:14, Col. 1:27) What a thought! The challenge for us as believers now is to walk in this new identity. We are to “**let our light shine before others.**” This takes great intentionality and Paul focuses on that in the next verses. According to verse 9, which qualities characterize the fruit of light? _____

8. Think about the qualities that define the fruit of light.
- a. Goodness- moral excellence or honorability in nature and in effect.
 - b. Righteousness - the character or quality of being right or just; that which conforms to the revealed will of God in His Word.
 - c. Truth – in this context refers to integrity, honesty, and reliability. Having nothing to hide.

How does understanding the above qualities give us discernment in evaluating if our lives are truly pleasing the Lord? (vs 10) _____

9. In verses 11 Paul then addresses how believers are to relate to the darkness while living in the world. According to verse 11 they are to “**Take _____, in the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather _____ them.**” (ESV)

10. Using the following verses list some ways that believers expose the unfruitful works of darkness. (I Peter 3:15-16, Rom. 12:9, 17-21, Matt. 4:1-11, 5:16, Esther 4:10-16) Can you think of any others? _____

11. The purpose of exposing the darkness is defined in Verses 12-14. First, it is because, ***“It is _____, even to speak of the things they do in secret.”*** Why is it important for people to understand there is shame in sin? _____

12. The first step to winning a lost soul is for the person to recognize they have a need. As Spurgeon says, *“Sins are works of darkness and they delight in concealment. They flourish in the darkness of the unrenewed heart. They are most fully maintained in the ignorance of a soul that is without the knowledge of the ever- blessed God.”* This is so true! With this idea in mind, read verse 14. How can the light of Jesus shining through us, be used to bring a lost soul into the saving knowledge of God? _____

13. Considering the enormous significance of our walk as children of light, Paul then says in verses 15-17 ***“Look _____ then how you walk, not as unwise, making the best use of your _____ because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be _____, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”*** (ESV) Basically, here Paul is reiterating the truth that believers need to resist the urge to walk in futility. They need to recognize they have only one life to live, and thus should adjust their mindset and priorities towards investing in what matters for eternity. Practically speaking, how do you typically go about making decisions regarding how you spend your time and resources? What are some Scriptures that guide you in making daily decisions?

14. As a result of this lesson, are there any areas where the Holy Spirit is challenging you to be more intentional about walking in the light? _____

“When you leave this world, will you be known as one who accumulated treasures on earth that you couldn’t keep? Or will you be recognized as one who invested treasures in heaven that you couldn’t lose?” Randy Alcorn

“Work for Jesus keeps us strong in faith and intense in love for Him. Soul-winning keeps the heart lively and preserves our warm youth in Christ. It is a mighty refresher to decaying love. Love for souls will in the end bring to all who have the highest joy beneath the stars- the joy of knowing they have been made the spiritual parents of others.” CH Spurgeon
