

C. Ephesians 5:8-10 – Remember who you are! You are children of the light.

1. Ephesians 5:8a – ...*for you were formerly darkness*... Notice that it does not say we lived in darkness; it says we _____ darkness. Before Christ saved us, we were darkness personified. The word darkness in Greek means absence of light or shadowy gloom.
 - a. Before salvation we were without God, the only source of light. John 11:10 says, “*But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not _____ him.*”
 - b. Ephesians 4:18 explains our former condition this way: “*being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the _____ of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.*” Romans 1:21
 - c. Although we are no longer darkness, we will constantly struggle against the darkness that surrounds us on every side _____ the day God calls us home.
 - d. Ephesians 6:12 says, “*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but _____ the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*” Acts 26:18
2. Ephesians 5:8b – ...*but now you are Light in the Lord*... In our _____ position in Christ we have been made *light in the Lord*.
 - a. The _____ light is God. 1 John 1:5 says, “*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.*”
 - 1) _____ is light. There is no darkness, or evil, in Him. He is the embodiment of goodness and truth. Psalm 104:2; John 1:4, 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 6:16
 - 2) John 1:9 – *There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.* Jesus Christ is the true Light who came into the _____ to enlighten the world concerning the truth and give life to all who would believe.
 - b. Everyone who is in Christ is *Light in the Lord*. Colossians 3:3 says that our *life is hidden with Christ _____ God*.
 - 1) _____ believers have been *rescued by God from the domain of darkness and transferred ...to the kingdom of His beloved Son* (Col. 1:13).
 - 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:5 says, “*For you are all sons of light and sons of _____.* We are not of night nor of darkness.” This is why we should *walk as children of Light*; we should live in a way that matches who we are in Christ. Acts 26:18, 1 Peter 1:15
3. Ephesians 5:8c – ...*walk as children of Light*... Paul told the Ephesian believers to walk in their position as *Light in the Lord*. Walking requires repetitive steps; it is not a onetime action. Walking requires alertness, caution and good lighting in order not to stumble and fall. Psalm 119:105 says that *God’s word is a _____ to my feet and a light to my path*.
 - a. We are to walk as children of God, who is Light. We are to imitate Him by keeping in step _____ Him. Galatians 5:25 says that *if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit*. Galatians 5:16

- b. However, apart from Jesus Christ we can do _____. Only He can bring forth fruit in our lives. He is the true Light. John 15:5, Galatians 2:20, Philippians 2:14
4. Ephesians 5:9a – *...for the _____ of the Light consists in... several benefits. First, we know that fruit refers to what is produced. Walking in the light produces good fruit. In a garden, light makes things grow, and when things grow, they tend to produce fruit. In the absence of light, plants do not grow, and fruit is not produced. 2 Corinthians 3:5-6*
5. Ephesians 5:9b – *...for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness... The believer who walks in the light is poised to _____ all sorts of good fruit. In 2 Thessalonians 1:11 we read, "To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power."*
6. Ephesians 5:9c – *...for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness... The righteousness spoken of here is God's righteousness, not ours. This righteousness is a fruit that comes from God as its _____. God's goodness stands in complete contrast with the unrighteousness produced by the godless world around us.*
7. Ephesians 5:9d – *...for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and _____ Truth in Greek is the word ALETHIA, meaning "not concealed," or "hiding nothing." Walking in the light is walking in truth, because nothing is hidden in the light. Luke 8:17*
- a. 1 Corinthians 4:5 – *Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time but _____ until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men's hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.*
- b. We are to walk in the light where the _____ fruits of goodness, righteousness, and truth are free to grow. The outcome of walking in the light will be good, wholesome, and authentic living.
8. Ephesians 5:10 – *...trying to _____ what is pleasing to the Lord. There is nothing more worthwhile than pursuing what is pleasing to the Lord. In this life, you can pursue many things, but only a few are worthy of striving after. Colossians 1:9-11*
- a. Just as children almost always want to _____ their parents, pleasing our heavenly Father is an overarching theme in this passage. You will not likely be successful in pleasing people, but to please the Lord will bring great reward. 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- b. Presenting our members to God for His use is a form of true _____. Romans 12:1 says, *"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*
- c. Paul's prayer for the believers in Colossae was that they might *...walk in a manner _____ of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-11).*

- d. In this verse the phrase translated “*trying to learn*” was also translated “*that you may approve*” in Philippians 1:10. Paul’s prayer for the Philippians was that [their] *love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may _____ the things that are excellent.*”

D. Ephesians 5:11-14 – Shine brightly as children of light

1. Ephesians 5:11a – *Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness...* There are two commands in this verse. The first command is to not _____ in with unbelievers in their unprofitable deeds. Psalm 1:1, Proverbs 4:14-15
 - a. Everything unbelievers do in the _____ is unfruitful, but believers have a choice. We do not have to participate in the deeds of darkness; we can walk in the light and be fruitful.
 - b. According to Strong’s concordance, the word *unfruitful* in this verse “refers to any thought (or _____) not originated and empowered by the Lord.” Anything not produced by the Holy Spirit in our lives is eternally worthless or unfruitful. Galatians 5:16-25
2. Ephesians 5:11b – *...but instead even _____ them.* The second command is to expose the *deeds of darkness*.
 - a. The word *expose* here is the same word we see in John 16:8 describing the Holy Spirit’s work of *conviction*. It means to convince with solid, compelling evidence; to prove _____.
 - 1) The Holy Spirit exposes the unfruitful deeds of darkness by bringing in light. You can’t _____ with the light. The light is the most “solid, compelling evidence” there is; you can’t argue with what you see with your eyes. The light shows sin for precisely what it is: vile and despicable. John 3:20
 - 2) The Holy Spirit’s purpose in showing the vileness of sin is to convince unbelievers of their _____ of Jesus Christ.
 - b. We should work as the Holy Spirit works. Even though He enters the darkness with light, He never _____ Himself with the darkness. John 3:20, 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15
 - c. Instead of crawling down into the dungeon of sin to participate in the _____ of the darkness, let’s open the windows and flood the gloomy pit of sin with the light of truth, the gospel. That’s how we *expose them* as commanded in this verse. Psalm 26:3, 43:3; John 3:20-21
3. Ephesians 5:12 – *...for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in _____.* The things done in secret refer to the deeds of darkness in the previous verse.
 - a. The word *done* means to bring to _____ or bring into existence. The word *disgraceful* can be translated improper, indecent, inappropriate or shameful.
 - b. To announce or transmit the indecent deeds done in the dark is disgraceful. Discussing, watching, or listening to the specifics of the shameful _____ initiated under the cover of darkness is inappropriate.

4. Ephesians 5:13 – *But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.* _____ is a word of contrast. Paul contrasted discussing shameful deeds with exposing them to the light.
- Paul said that all things, without exception, become visible, or no longer hidden, when they are _____ to the light.
 - You cannot see the _____ in your room when it is completely dark. With the entrance of light, the truth becomes known. 1 John 1:5 says, *“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”*
 - John 3:19 adds, *“This is the judgment, that the Light has come _____ the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”*
 - The entrance of light causes some people to _____ but others to rejoice. 2 Corinthians 4:4 says, *“In whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* 1 Corinthians 2:14; John 3:20-21
 - The _____ of Christ is true light. 2 Timothy 1:10 says that Christ *abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.* Titus 2:11
5. Ephesians 5:14 – *For this reason it says, “Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will _____ on you.”* This statement was likely a first century hymn adapted from Isaiah 60:1 which says, *“Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”*
- Since all the previous commands in this passage and all the commands that follow are for believers, it follows that this command is also _____ believers. So, why are believers commanded to arise from the dead? Can a believer be dead?
 - In both 1 Timothy 5:6 and Revelation 3:1-3 believers are referred to as _____. Revelation 3:1 says, *“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead’.”*
 - To be dead is a figurative, or nonliteral, way of describing the believer who is functionally disconnected from God. Believers are dead when they are not tapping into God as the source of their spiritual vitality. This does not mean they are unsaved, but it does mean they are without _____ fellowship with God. Romans 6:23
 - This could be likened to a military commander urging his troops to stay alert or a coach telling his team to _____ alive.
 - Paul used this kind of language with believers in Romans 13:11 when he said, *“Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.”* Don’t hit the snooze button. _____ and shine! 1 Thessalonians 5:5-7, Proverbs 4:18