

WALK IN THE LIGHT DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPHESIANS 5:3-14

1 **What does it mean that believers are children of light?** See Psalm 119:105, Pr. 6:23, John 12:35-36, 46, 1 John 4:5.

♥ *What do you see in those texts that applies to your life right now?*

2 **“No passage of scripture is as strong in its explanation of conversion [as Ephesians 5:8].”** How would you use Eph 5:8 as a metaphor for your own Christian life and journey with the Lord?

⚙️ *What does darkness and light imagery teach us about living the Christian life?*

3 **Read Ephesians 5:1-3 and notice the stark contrast of the fragrance Christ’s work on the cross and the stench of sexual sin in back to back verses.** Discuss the following points³ that Mark Roberts offers in response to the question, “Why do you think Paul goes from mentioning the cross to addressing sexual sin?” Do you agree/disagree with what he says? What would you add? How does each apply to your own fight with sexual sin?

⚙️ *The cross reminds us that what we do with our bodies really matters. Jesus took on flesh dwelt among us. What Jesus did with His body matters eternally. And, so it is with us.*

⚙️ *The cross reminds us that grace and forgiveness are freely offered.*


⚙️ *The cross reminds us that love is self-giving and self-sacrificing. Sexual sin is about a consuming focus on one’s own desires.*

4 **Read Ephesians 5:5-6, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 John 3:9.** What do they say about enjoying sin and your identity? The mark of a child of the light is not sinlessness, it is that you fight against sin. If there is no fight, you are not the light. If you are in the light, you will fight.


♥ *How have you experienced this in your own life?*


5 **John Stott says that “Holiness is not a condition into which we drift.”** In what ways have you seen that to be true?²

✏️ *Look back over chapter 4 and 5 and make note of the areas in your own life where you feel the most uphill battle. Explain why.*

 In what ways were you convicted in this text in the particular area of sexual sin?


6 “Thanksgiving is the antidote to sin, because it is difficult to give thanks and sin at the same time.”⁴ How is thanksgiving an appropriate replacement for the 6 behaviors Paul is condemning in vs3-4?


 Share an example from your own life where you have seen one desire replace another.


 Discuss the following quote from Thomas Chalmers: “The best way to overcome the world is not with morality or self-discipline. Christians overcome the world by seeing the beauty and excellence of Christ. They overcome the world by seeing something more attractive than the world: Christ.”⁵

 What does it look like for you to combat covetousness with rejoicing?


7 If we are honest, thanksgiving can be difficult to practice in a disappointing and broken world. Why do you think that is?

 It can be helpful to think through three different ways of giving thanks to God. We can give thanks for the past, present, and the future. How is that a helpful way to produce gratitude in your heart?

 What are the past things you can thank God for? What are the future promises you can thank God for? How do those things produce thankfulness for your present situation?

 Stop to pray through the list above and then revisit each one when you're tempted to indulge in the covetousness of your heart.

8 In Ephesians 5:11-14, Paul calls children of the light to “take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” Use the following verses to provide a helpful guide for this activity: Matthew 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-9, 5:14, 1 Cor. 4:14, Matt 18:15-16, 7:5, Gal. 6:1.

 Is there someone that God is burdening you to shine the light of truth in front of? What are some next steps that you could take in the next few weeks to obey this text?

PRAYER REQUESTS

1 Kyle Snodgrass, Ephesians: NIV Application Commentary.
2 John Stott, The Message of Ephesians.
3 Kyle Roberts, The Story of the Bible Commentary: Ephesians, 176.
4 Kyle Snodgrass, Ephesians: NIV Application Commentary.
5 Thomas Chalmers, “The Expulsive Power of a New Affection” paraphrased by William Farley in Gospel Powered Parenting