

LIVING AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT

(Ephesians 5:5-10)

When God turns on the light of His saving grace on us, He made us spiritually alive in Christ, delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 1:13-14). As Paul beautifully said in Ephesians 5:8, *"For at one time, you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord!"* **As children of light, we must reflect the holy character of God through our godly living.** Ephesians 5:5-10 presents two vital principles that we must learn and apply in order to live as children of light.

1. ***We must consider the*** _____.
Persistent and unrepentant sinners are certainly excluded from the kingdom of Christ and are sure objects of God's eternal wrath. This is the absolute, certain, irreversible and eternal consequence of sin (Ephesians 5:5-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Continuance in unrepented sin reveals an unredeemed and unsaved heart. As 1 John 3:9 explains, *"No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God."* Persistent and unrepented sin is eternally disastrous because it keeps people out of heaven and subjects them to the wrathful judgement of God in hell. God issued this emphatic and strong warning to His people so that we will deal seriously and radically with sin in our own lives.

2. ***We must value our*** _____.
Self-identity is a lifelong struggle for all of us. The truth about who we are is undeniably a pressing issue all of us wrestle with. Our identity defines our ethics. Who we are determines how we live. In Ephesians 5:7-10, Paul reminds us of the truth about our identity and exhorts us to value that identity by considering two important matters: the great change that occurred in our lives and the godly characteristics that must be evident in our lives. In verses 7 and 8, Paul highlights the great and radical change in our identity. We were once darkness, but now we are light in the Lord. Darkness represents ignorance to spiritual truth, enslavement to sin and the dominion of Satan. Light represents spiritual understanding, freedom from sin, holiness of life and belonging to Christ. It is through God's converting work and through our union with Christ that we become children of light. In verses 9 and 10, Paul identifies the godly virtues that must mark our new life in Christ: goodness, righteousness and truth (Ephesians 5:9; 4:24-32; 5:3-4). To sum up what it essentially means to live out our new identity in Christ as children of light, Paul draws our attention to the main goal of believers: *"try to discern or find out what is pleasing to the Lord!"* (Ephesians 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:9). What ultimately pleases God is to love Him supremely and to live our life for His glory. Therefore, we must express our supreme love for the Lord by living out our new glorious identity in Christ as children of light!
