Ephesians 5:5-21 **Children of Light**

**What does it mean to live a Christian life?**

1. Knowing sin and walking in obedience (Ephesians 5:5-14)
2. Knowing time and walking in wisdom (Ephesians 5:15-17)
3. Knowing the Lord and walking in joy (Ephesians 5:18-21)

Christianity isn’t intended to make the old-self better – to improve on some prior inadequacies. Christianity intends to change who you are Ephesians 4:17).

1. **Know sin and walk in obedience**

(Ephesians 5:11) “*deeds of darkness*” – immoral, impure (pornography), greed

**View 1**: what the Bible says about sex is outdated but what it says about greed, injustice and oppression is absolutely right and should be heeded.

**View 2**: Denounce sexual immorality and make a big show of it but ignore what the Bible says about greed and involvement with the poor.

**The Bible is comprehensive on both 1 & 2 above.**

Idolater (Ephesians 5:4) – you may be living externally correct but internally your motives are wrong, which still makes it sinful.

The love, even of a good thing, like love for children, can be a problem if it is more important than love for God.

(Ephesians 5:8, Ephesians 5:11) “*once you were darkness*…” People do not occasionally do bad things. No. They are bad. The Bible is negative on human nature.

(Ephesians 5:6) **The guilt of sin**. God’s wrath. Judicial condemnation. Sin means you are guilty, not that you messed up. We may feel that some people deserve god’s wrath (i.e. Nazis), but not me!

Sin (Ephesians 5:8) You are light (goodness). Light in the Lord.

1. **Knowing time and walking in Wisdom**

(Ephesians 5:15-17) Living the Christian life is more than keeping the moral rules. It is also knowing how to navigate the 80% of life where the moral rules are ambiguous.

* Most jobs are morally permissible
* Most marriages are morally permissible
* Lots of choices in life which are morally OK

However, some choices are wise and some are foolish.

How do you decide the wise thing when the law of God does not clearly give direction?

“*be careful how you live (walk)*” when you walk you need to have a direction. Making money is ok, but for what purpose?

(Ephesians 5:16) “*Make the most of every opportunity*.” Redeeming your time and make strategic decisions.

1. **Knowing the Lord and walking in joy**

(Ephesians 5:18-21) Being filled with the Spirit. Joy is at the heart of Christian life.

Being filled with the Spirit gives what people are looking for when they get drunk. You do not need to get drunk and numb to find joy.

Signs that you are filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. Live a life of gratitude towards God
2. Live a life of service to others
3. Always walk around singing and full of joy