Darkness is serious business

Eph. 5:5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person--such a man is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Eph. 5:6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things <u>God's wrath</u> comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

Living in the light

1. Once you *were* darkness; now you are light.

Ephesians 5:8… for once you were darkness, but now you <u>are</u> light in the Lord…

2. Because we are light, we live light.

Ephesians 5:8… for once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as <u>children of light</u>.

Eph. 5:9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

3. Don't dabble in darkness.

Eph. 5:11 Take no part in the <u>unfruitful</u> works of darkness, but instead expose them.

Eph. 5:12 For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret;

Eph. 5:13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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Out of the Darkness, Into Light

Ephesians 5:1-14

October 4, 2025

Ephesians review:

Eph. 1: God chose, redeemed, sealed and empowers you.

Eph. 2: Man's predicament, But God saved you… even us!

Eph. 3: God uniting people, people knowing God, people loving people.

Eph. 4: Usness, Usness Serving, Old Usness, New Usness

Eph. 5: Out of darkness into light; Out of foolishness, into wisdom: Out of I, into us (marriage)

NEW MODEL

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, …

"Mimitate" -

NEW IDENTITY

Ephesians 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

NEW PRIORITY #1: LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE

Ephesians 5:2 …live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Matt. 5:43-48 You have heard that it was said, 'You shall

love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' [44] But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, [45] so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. [46] For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? [47] And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?

- **An <u>undeserved</u> love.**

*Romans 5:6 While we were still weak, at the right time Christ <u>died</u> for <u>the ungodly</u>. [7] Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man -- though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. [8] But <u>**God shows his love**</u> for us in that while we were yet <u>sinners</u> Christ died for us.*

"...as a fragrant offering..."

- **An <u>intentional</u> love.**

"...live a life of love..."

*Romans 13:9 The <u>**commandments**</u>, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other <u>**commandment**</u> there may be, are summed up in this one <u>**rule**</u>: "Love your neighbor as yourself."*

- **A <u>sacrificial</u> love.**

"...just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us"

NEW PRIORITY #2: LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS

Diagnosing darkness

Ephesians 5:3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.

Marriage is:

- One man, one woman –
- Complimentary gender -
- Reflecting God's deepest connections,
- For life -
- Lifelong commitment -

- Sexual immorality-

- Impurity-

- Greed- (plĕŏnĕxia)

Ephesians 5:3 ...because these are improper for God's holy people.

Eph. 5:4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.