TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST

Ephesians



LifeGroups
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FALL 2026

Live in Purity

- Children of the light live in purity, not immorality
- Ephesians 5:1-10
- Paul told us how to put aside the old self and live together as our new selves in Christian community.
- He now says to be “imitators of God.”

Live in Purity

- It means walking in sacrificial love as Christ loved us (5:2).
- He continues the same discussion of living in our new identity, but with a new metaphor – being children of light.
- Paul used the “sons” of God imagery earlier (1:5) and prayed for the Ephesians’ hearts to be “enlightened,” (1:18) and now he was adding them together.

Live in Purity

- There is a lot of imagery of light in the Bible.
- God’s Word is a light unto our path (Psalm 119:105).
- The Lord is our light and salvation (Psalm 27:1).
- God’s people were called to be a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6).

Live in Purity

- Jesus said both that He is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and that His disciples are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14–16).
- If God is light and we are children of God, then we are children of light. But God is like the sun and we are like the moon; we don’t have our own light; we reflect His light to the world.

Live in Purity

- Light brings life (John 1:4).
- Light helps us see dangers around us (Ephesians 5:13).
- Light guides us (John 8:12).
- Light is pure (1 John 1:5).
- Light is powerful (1 John 4:4).

Live in Purity

- But because Christ has brought us out of darkness and made us “children of light,” our lives should reflect His character to the world.
- In this passage, Paul concentrates especially on the purity of light.
- John wrote that “God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5).

Live in Purity

- This passage shows that purity involves more than sexual conduct; it also reaches our desires and our speech.
- Such sins are inconsistent with the lives of God’s holy people and have no place among them.
- Paul pointed ahead to heaven to tell us why these things don’t belong in the Church, among God’s people (5:5).

Live in Purity

- In God's final kingdom, there will be no evil nor any effects of evil – no death, mourning, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4).
- In the New Jerusalem, God's glory will provide its light, and there will be no night there (Revelation 21:23–25; 22:5).
- More broadly, God's final kingdom will be completely free from the darkness of sin and evil.

Live in Purity

- Paul gave us a list to show us what it looks like to live in perfect light, without even a hint of impurity.
- The first two focus on actions
- The last three on words
- The middle one reaches to our inner thoughts and desires:

Live in Purity

- “Sexual immorality” is *pornea*, from which we get our word “pornography”; it refers to sexual immorality (5:3).
- “All impurity” not just sexual impurity (5:3).
- “Covetousness” can also be translated as lust or greed; it’s the desire for something more than what God has given you (5:3).

Live in Purity

- “filthiness” – obscene, indecent, or base; morally repugnant or dishonorable
- “foolish talk” – (a compound of “fool” + “word”) senseless or frivolous
- “crude jesting” – (a compound of “well” + “turned”) witty, but vulgar or cruel

Live in Purity

- Paul also warned them not to be deceived about the seriousness of this kind of sin.
- God's wrath comes on those whose lives are characterized by disobedience, so believers must not join them in their sin (5:6–7).
- Paul wasn't telling Christians to avoid unbelievers; he was telling them not to participate in the sinful way they live.

Live in Purity

- Paul wasn’t imposing a list of rules; he was showing us the beauty of walking in the light.
- When we live this way, we will look so different from the rest of the world that we will be like a light shining on a hill for weary travelers (Matthew 5:14).

Expose Works of Darkness

- Children of light expose works of darkness
- Ephesians 5:11-14
- The last section focused on the purity of the light of God.
- This section focuses on the light as *guidance* and the thing that *enables us to see* the world around us properly

Expose Works of Darkness

- Paul had already told the Ephesians not to partner with those who walk in darkness (5:7).
- But here he even told them to expose the deeds of darkness (5:11).
- Light exposes what is hidden so it can be seen for what it really is (5:13).

Expose Works of Darkness

- Light exposes what was hidden. When we see sin among fellow believers, love does not simply ignore it.
- As we live as children of light in the world, our lives and words also expose the darkness around us.
- The goal is to bring what is dark into the light so that it can be seen for what it really is.

Expose Works of Darkness

- Paul told them not to “take part in” the works of darkness (5:11) or “become partners with” the sons of disobedience (5:7).
- That doesn’t mean we can’t be friends with unbelievers.
- If we want to share the Gospel with unbelievers, we have to build authentic relationships with them.

Expose Works of Darkness

- Because we have the Holy Spirit in us, we bring light with us wherever we go.
- When we walk into a dark room, we light it up.
- As we live lives characterized by goodness, righteousness, and truth (5:9), the contrast helps reveal the works of darkness for what they really are.

Expose Works of Darkness

- Paul closed this section with a “saying” that isn’t a direct quotation of any one Old Testament passage.
- It may have come from an early Christian hymn and echoes several passages in Isaiah, especially the call to “arise” and shine because God’s light has come (Isaiah 60:1; Isaiah 26:19).

Expose Works of Darkness

- That gives us two important applications. When a brother or sister in Christ begins walking in darkness, we love them enough not to ignore it.
- And when we live among those who don’t know Christ, we shine His light through lives of goodness, righteousness, and truth. In both cases, our goal isn’t condemnation or shame.

An Opportunity to Shine

- Children of light make the most of every opportunity to shine
- Ephesians 5:15-20
- Paul began this section by telling the Ephesians to look carefully at how they walk (5:15).
- Pay careful attention to how you live.

An Opportunity to Shine

- Paul then implored them to “make the best use of the time” because “the days are evil” (5:16).
- The phrase can carry the idea of “redeeming” or “buying up” the time. The picture is not simply about squeezing more productivity into every minute of the day.
- Paul was telling them to make the most of the opportunities God gives them.

An Opportunity to Shine

- We are ambassadors of God’s kingdom, sent into the world with a message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:17–20)
- We are all missionaries in the sense that God has placed us in the world to represent Christ and share the Good News of the Gospel, even if that mission field is our own hometown.

An Opportunity to Shine

- We no longer live for ourselves; we live for Christ and represent Him to the world around us.
- To accomplish this, Paul called the Ephesians to live wisely by understanding the will of the Lord (5:17).
- He wasn’t telling them to discover God’s hidden plans, but to understand and live according to the will God has revealed in His Word.

An Opportunity to Shine

- Then he implored them to be filled with the Spirit instead of drunk with wine (5:18).
- This isn’t outlawing all drinking, but it is clearly outlawing drunkenness, which Proverbs also warns against (Proverbs 20:1; 23:20–32).
- Believers should yield themselves to the influence and control of the Holy Spirit.

An Opportunity to Shine

- The imagery of light adds another dimension to Paul's description of the new life.
- Our new identity changes us personally and shapes the way we live together as the Church, but its impact doesn't stop there.
- Children of light shine into the world around them.

Point of View - Tuesday @ 1:00pm



