Walking As Children Of The Light

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

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Topic:

WALKING AS CHILDREN OF THE LIGHT

Bible Text: Ephesians 5:8

Teacher: Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Yaweh is your name. We, your children, praise you for who you are and what you have done for us. We humbly ask that as we gather in your name this day, may the heavens open the doors of understanding and wisdom of your word to us. And may we obtain the Grace which is divinely needed to resist and hate sin. May we seek everyday the path which is righteous and pleasing to you. May we not learn your word and put it aside. Help us our Lord, in the name of Jesus Christ do we pray. Amen

Introduction

You are all welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we would be looking into a serious matter of discussion which affects almost everyone of us or would concern us some day. This is why I would like us to pay serious attention to the teaching so that we can get more prepared for the kingdom of God.

Study

Ephesians 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.

If we read through the previous verses of this chapter, Paul the apostle says that we should not be partakers with those that do evil, those who are disobedient to laws and commandments of the Lord. Now he makes us know the kind of people we were in time past, that we were once darkness, just as the same way everyone who is in Christ is a light but those who are not in

Christ are darkness and they can't do otherwise because their lives are darkness on their own. Everyone who is now saved was once darkness but now is changed to be light in Christ Jesus, and because of this change of position we must then walk according to our new life, we must walk as light. For Christ had said that we are the light of the world. **Matthew 5:14 KJV** Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

When Paul would admonish the church at Thessalonica, he says they are all the children of light. **1 Thessalonians 5:5 KJV** Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. From this Paul makes it clear that we are the children of the day because there is no darkness during the day. Darkness comes upon the earth only in the night, this is why we must prove ourselves as children of the day and not the night by not continuing in the works of darkness. **Ephesians 5:9 KJV** (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) looking at this verse, one might be forced to ask what the correlation between it and the previous one is but there is a close correlation. And it is that, when we walk as children of light we would bear the fruit of the Spirit and this fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, that is, anything that promotes the good and mercy of others. Righteousness, which points at doing justice and truth; shunning falsehood at all cost. Then, we were living according to the dictates of our flesh freely doing the works of darkness, which those in the dark walk in and as those who walk in the dark do not know where they are heading to that's how sinners are, they are only roaming about in the dark and did not have a glimpse of where they will finally end up. They are far from the light lest they should work in it. **2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

As a result they did not exhibit the life of God, the fruit of the Spirit is what makes a man live the life of Christ but since they do not have Christ, the fruit cannot be seen in their lives. **Ephesians 5:10 KJV** Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. Now the responsibility of those who are commanded to walk in the light is that they must find out what is acceptable to the Lord and not just choose to be ignorant, we must apply some efforts to know those things the Lord does not want us to have anything to do with, so as to know what is also pleasing to Him, that we might do them. **Romans 12:2 KJV** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

We must give ourselves up totally to the Lord that we might know what is good and acceptable to Him. The major problem of many in Christendom today is that they do not even know what God disapproves, not to talk of what He approves and accepts. This is the responsibility of every child of God, we must give time for private studies, constant search to know those things that are not fitting to us as Christians and also swing ourselves into doing those things that pleases God. Walking in God's perfect will is the major aim of the children of light. If we decide to conform to the world, we would find it hard to prove what God's will for us is. Many have conformed with worldly standards and practices, this is why they do not know what God's acceptable will is, but we should not be ignorant as students of light, we must find out what is acceptable to the Lord. **Ephesians 5:11 KJV** And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Then we should avoid any kind of fellowship, or relationship with the works of darkness because they are unfruitful. We should in no wise behave like those in darkness, nor approve

what they do but we should expose them. When talking about the works of darkness they are sins and those who do them as sinners, we then must not fellowship with them in any way, this works of darkness are unfruitful works, there is nothing gotten by them in the long run, whatever profit one might thinks he gets through sin, it cannot in any way be compared to the loss one would get at the end because it brings and causes utter ruin and destruction of the impertinent sinner.

This is why we must not fellowship with these unfruitful works, as we must not practice them ourselves, so also we must not tolerate others in the practice of them. **Romans 1:32 KJV** Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them. There are many ways we can get ourselves guilty of the sins committed by others. Though we did not commit them personally but approved it in others. If we must keep ourselves away from the sins of others we then must not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. **2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV** Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

We are of the light, what relationship then do light have with darkness? This is why we must not keep company with fornicators. Those who are not careful of the company they keep would find themselves living in darkness. **1 Corinthians 5:9 KJV** I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

God is not only concerned about the sins you commit by yourself, he is also concerned about the ones you joined others to commit and even the ones others committed through your approval. This is why as ministers of God we don't declare what we are not sure of as not sinful. If we are asked if they are sins or not, we would refer them to the Holy Spirit. Many have

ignorantly partake in the sins of others by declaring that something which is actually sinful before God is not sinful and this has let these people into errors. Today we have diverse teachings in the body of Christ and one will begin to wonder if we have many Jesus Christ that have different standards or if there are many different bibles that preach different things. Approving sins in others is as damnable as the sins personally committed. Many do not know this, that is why they give interpretation to the word of God based on their feelings and not according to the Holy Spirit's interpretation, thus they have placed their feet on the path of destruction. This happens in different ways.

How People Partake In The Sins Of Others

1. **Commendations:** This talks about you approving what is sinful as unsinful, it talks about praise. You are praising something sinful in a person, this can be directly or indirectly. For example you know that God is not pleased with plaiting with attachments nor even plating the natural hair, you now see someone who does it and you keep complimenting the person that she looks beautiful, you have joined yourself to that person's sin. We are not to commend evil. You see a lady putting on trousers or other seductive attires with makeup, you know that God hates these things yet you give beautiful compliments to the person without correcting such a person, you have just partaken in another person's sin. There are many Christian brothers and sisters who have placed themselves under God's wrath ignorantly by putting the picture of someone they know, who dressed seductively and unpleasantly to God on their status, putting different kinds of compliments under it like happy Birthday to this beautiful so so so, by this, such person would feel she's beautiful on makeup and continue in it. They themselves do not wear make-ups but they approve of those who

do so, the scripture says clearly that the beauty of a woman does not come from the outside but from the inward.

1 Peter 3:3-5 KJV Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; [4] But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. [5] For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: these old-time women only adorned themselves with things that accords to inner beauty and not outwards i.e with artificial things which the Lord detests so much, those who compliment these people are calling evil good and good evil. **Isaiah 5:20 KJV** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! God pronounces woes on this set of people.

If you would make heaven you need to stop commending sins in others. Some also post pictures of those who barb worldly haircuts, those on tattoos, muscled shirtless men etc, on their status complementing them as handsome, the things which the Lord hates. When it is written that you must hate evil. **Psalm 97:10 KJV** Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked. But many are too conscious of what people will say about them. Why not let them say whatever thing they want to say? Why should you dishonor God because of men? If truly you love God, hate evil and never commend sins in others.

2. **Counsel:** This has to do with the area of giving advice. It is advice given as a result of consultation. You might be partaking in the sins of someone when you give them wrong counsels. Someone came to you to seek advice concerning a restitution he

has not done and you told him that there is no need for restitution, that if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things have passed away. **2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. Whereas God commanded restitution in the scriptures saying that those who steal and restore what they have stolen and do not go back into stealing shall live. Restitution is in diverse ways. **Ezekiel 33:15 KJV** If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Looking into the case of Amnon whom Jonadab gave a wrong counsel. **2 Samuel 13:5 KJV** And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. We would see the end of Amnon, this counsel sent him to an early grave, do you then think Jonadab will go scot-free?

Someone came to you to seek for counsel concerning marriage and you advised the person to divorce or marry another wife when the first wife is still alive, that counsel will certainly make you an accomplice to the person's sins and will eventually lead to your doom if not repented of and corrected, God cannot be mocked. There are those who advise others to do what God is not pleased with like examination malpractice, bribery, telling lies etc for any damnable wrong counsel given, such who gave the counsel is also guilty of the same sin when it is committed by the person.

Some have been told that drinking hard drinks is not sinful, quoting where Paul told Timothy to take little wine because of his health as a backup. **1 Timothy 5:23 KJV** Drink no longer

water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities. The wine Paul was referring to was not a hard drink but many interpret it as hard drinks and it has led many astray. Some say Jesus turned water to wine so they think it is a hard drink and they counsel people to drink strong drinks whereas the scripture says strong drink is raging. **Proverbs 20:1 KJV** Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. They are already deceived by it and this shows their level of foolishness already for the scriptures that say they are not wise. It is better to keep quiet when one is not sure of a thing than giving the wrong counsel which would damn such a person.

3. **Consent:** This is similar to commendation but a bit loose in effect than it. It talks about you agreeing to something sinful as not sinful. This means that when something sinful is done by Mr A, then Mr B says it is good, but instead of you disagreeing, you decide to agree with Mr B giving your consent to the sins of Mr A.

Consent in this context means giving permission to a sinful affair under your nose. It can be at work and some people want to embezzle money and it must pass through your table, though you decide not to join them in taking part of the money but you signed the papers because you don't want them to fight against you. You have just committed sin. Whenever you allow a sinful act which can be prevented by you to happen, you are giving your consent to it. It can be that someone is correcting another person on something wrong then you decide to take a stand with the wrong fellow you have joined yourself to the sins of that fellow. Many fall into this because they are afraid of what people would say. Be careful, you must fear and obey God rather than men. **Acts 5:29 KJV** Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. A times silence can mean consent. When something sinful is done under your

nose and God placed you as the head there but you choose to be quiet and pretend as if you do not see it this makes you an accomplice with such sins.

Some pastors do see the youth under them going haywire and decide to keep quiet and not correct them because they do not want them to leave their church. You have consented to what they are doing if you keep silent. Eli was reproved by God because he gave consent to what his sons were doing by keeping silent in the initial stage. It was when the people started complaining to him that he started admonishing his sons. He did not even rebuke them for what they were doing but was asking questions. **1 Samuel 2:29 KJV** Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? by his act of silence, God saw it like he honored his children than Him. Our silence can dishonor the Lord Jesus Christ. Eli did not tell them to stop taking part of the sacrifice meant for God for themselves, he kept quiet and this led to the doom of his entire home.

4. **Concealment:** This means to prevent disclosure or recognition of a particular sin. It means to cover up the sins committed by others. Through these, many have made themselves partakers of the sins committed by others. There are some parents whose children got pregnant outside marriage and they quickly organized a traditional marriage for these children so as to cover up the pregnancy from the church because they see it as something shameful. This set of people have partaken in the sins of their children. Some even go to the extent of aborting a pregnancy before people start to take notice of it. In some cases others send their children to stay with another family member far away until they deliver, all in a bid to cover up. Do not be a partaker of such! Covering one's sin will not make a person

prosper. **Proverbs 28:13 KJV** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. This also implies that those who cover other people's sins will not prosper too. Those who have hands in the sins of others by not making the right people who should know about it know about it will also face the consequence of concealing the sins of others.

This mostly applies to the body of Christ so that everyone can be built up as a family. The people of the world are deeply into these things and they cannot do otherwise, in fact, these things will not shock people because it is common among them but when it comes to fellow members in the body of Christ one must not keep quiet nor add to the sins of others but report to the appropriate channel not as a means to defame the other but that he should be reinstated.

As a sister your brother comes to you for an illicit affair right inside the church and you concealed it, though you rejected the offer, you are an accomplice to the sin of that brother. Is it that you know about two people committing sins together in the church yet you kept quiet, that is the sin of concealment, you are already a partaker of their sins. Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them. Truly you do not have fellowship with the evils committed by others but your failure to expose these evils means that you love it and want it that way.

Paul could have chosen to remain quiet when he saw that Peter was living hypocritically and not fully according to the truth. **Galatians 2:11-14 KJV** But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. [12] For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. [13] And

the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. [14] But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? Paul did it, so that Peter can correct his ways, if Paul had kept quiet it means that he would have indirectly approved what Peter was doing by concealing it.

Some know that the child of someone close to them is not his own, that his wife got impregnated by someone else and they have the evidence but they chose to conceal it. These sets of people if not careful might miss heaven, some were even asked if they knew anything about it, but they denied. **Leviticus 5:1 KJV** And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it ; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.

If one would not be a part of other people's sins, there are different ways to go about it depending on the area it falls into. It can be that one would call the person to order by oneself and give the right counsel. It can be that one would report such to a higher authority such as a boss, pastor, parents etc. In all, we must let the Holy Spirit be our guide and make the reason for such exposure of the works of darkness be for the sole benefit of the person and the body of Christ as a whole. But if we decide to share with others in their sins then we also must share in their plagues.

If you have been a partaker in the sins of others, it means that you have not been walking lightly enough. Follow these steps.

1. Confess the sins to God.

2. Ask for mercy and forgiveness.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how best to expose the things that need to be exposed.

4. In critical situations seek guidance from a Holy Spirit filled man of God.

5. Take a step as led by the Holy Spirit.

6. Pray about it seriously.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven. Please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Saviour, I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today and I make a decision to obey and follow You, come into my life now, and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen.

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