

CALL to PRAYER - Pray that we would be bold in our faith and not hide our faith

Ephesians 5:7-14 - Being Light & Shining Light

Intro - There is a distinct difference between the saved and lost. The line of demarcation is so stark that it is as different as day and night. Light and darkness are the terms used to describe the two kinds of people in the world. This analogy is derived from creation. God created light and separated the light from the darkness. Then He took the light and put it in receptacles in the sky. These lights have a profound impact on our world and are said to govern our lives as they shape our days and nights. Without light darkness would reign, but when light appears it scatters the darkness. Light reigns over darkness and determines how much darkness is present. This is true in the moral realm of society. The people of light have been graciously made receptacles of light and reflectors of light. They are to shine in a dark world and the more they shine the more the darkness is dispelled. But if they hide their light then the darkness rushes in and prevails. This passage on the properties and responsibilities of being light is critical for the Christian to understand. We will look at in under the acrostic D.A.R.K.

D - Distinction

1. Notice the sharp distinction. This is not just a distinction without a difference
 - a. 5:8
 - b. You can't get more opposite than light & darkness. Very distinct
 - c. Light & Darkness are descriptors of the two kinds of people in the world
 - d. The difference between the saved and the lost should be the difference between night and day.
2. Notice the analogy to creation
 - a. Gen. 1:1-4
 - b. At one time believers were darkness but they have been made light - 5:8
 - c. There is a lightbulb moment at conversion - 2 Cor. 4:6
 - i. Col. 1:13
 - d. Conversion is the gracious transformation of going from darkness to light
 - i. John 12:46 Acts 26:18 1 Peter 2:9
3. Notice the separation
 - a. 5:7-8, 11
 - b. Just as God separated the light from the darkness so too, we must be separate
 - i. 2 Cor. 6:14-17
 - c. God has made Christians to be the luminaries in the dark world -
 - i. We are made to shine - Phil. 2:14-15

A - Action

- Both light and darkness have distinct actions
 - The fruit of light - 5:9 the unfruitful deeds of darkness - 5:11
 - This combined analogy serves as another point of recognition - Matt. 7:16-19

- The fruit of light - 5:9
 - Light bears fruit and can be seen
 - Goodness Matt. 5:16
 - Righteousness - impartial justice in contrast to the worlds injustice
 - Truth truth in contrast to world of lies
 - Light can grow in its brilliance/brightness - (40w to 100w ...or... dimmer switch)
 - 5:10 As we learn what pleases the Lord our lumens increase
 - Like the moon...believers are to reflect the light of the Son
 - We will wax and wane, but we should cycle to be *full moon Christians*
 - Light bears a fruit that grows in brightness...but it is also a walk - 5:8c
 - John 8:12 1 John 1:5-8 Light is the Christian lifestyle

R - Reveal & Recoil

- The nature of light when it shines it that it reveals, exposes and dispels the darkness
 - 5:11-13
 - Light not only is distinct from darkness...it exposes the darkness
 - Light reveals things the way they really are.
 - It is by the light that we see what is hidden in the dark - Mark 4:21-22
 - Christians are the light, but they must shine the light into the dark world
- The darkness hates to be exposed to the light.
 - Darkness always recoils from the light. (blinded by the light - exit movie theatre)
 - John 3:19-21 John 1:5
- The people of light are not to hide their light even though the darkness wants them to
 - Matt. 5:14-15
 - Our society is willing to let us shine the light within the 4 walls of the church...
 - ...it is when we shine the light in open that we get all the pushback
 - Our society wants us to hide our light under a bushel
 - they don't want us to call sin "*sin*" and tell them something is wrong...
 - Christians are called to shine the light before men and expose their darkness
 - This is what light does...it exposes - 5:11-13
 - If darkness is growing it means that the light is hiding (our fault)
- "*All it takes to evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.*"
 - Christian need to be careful against confusing nuanced niceness to godliness
 - Light uses clear language to expose that which is dark. (truth and light go together)
 - *Reproductive freedom* = baby murder. *Let them love* = sexual perversion
 - Liberal Christianity is not Christian just like Bruce Jenner is not a woman
 - We are to shine the light of Scripture on every area of society

K - Kerygma

- ❖ Kerygma = preach or proclaim Romans 10:14
 - 5:14 is a message...maybe a message in song that the *People of Light* sang
 - Christian have been made light to shine in the dark - luminaries
 - We have a message of light and should not keep in hidden - Be light, Shine light