

REVIVE US

WALK AS CHILDREN OF LIGHT! DAVID ANDERSON | OCTOBER 18, 2020 HUB NOTES

1) Why does so much of Scripture utilize the imagery of light and darkness to describe God, God's action, and God's children versus sin, deception and death?

When John says that "God is light", he is calling God the illuminator and creator of all that was, is and ever will be. Light not only reveals that which is hidden in darkness, but it also provides what is necessary for giving and sustaining both physical and spiritual life. The message that Jesus Christ brings into this world is that His light can conquer the darkness of any heart.

Read and reread Ephesians 5:8-11: ⁸ for you were at one time darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light—⁹ for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth—¹⁰ trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² For the things they do in secret are shameful even to mention. ¹³ But all things being exposed by the light are made evident. ¹⁴ For everything made evident is light, and for this reason it says: "Awake, O sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you!"

2) In our former lives, we are called "darkness", but now we "are" light (vs. 8). Why do you think we are identified as "darkness," as "light" as opposed to in darkness, in light?

Paul doesn't say that once you were around darkness, but instead he says the darkness was in you. He is not talking about a sphere of darkness, but says you were once darkness. But now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the light. What changed wasn't our surroundings or circumstances. What changed was US! And where has the change come from? You are light in the Lord. Jesus says in John 8, "*I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*"

3) In vs. 11, Paul says, "Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." Is Paul talking about exposing the sins of unbelievers or our own sins?

Some of the commentaries argue that Paul is talking about a Christian exposing the unfruitful works of darkness in the unbeliever's life. I don't think this is what he is talking about here. All throughout the first seven verses of this chapter, Paul is saying to folks in Ephesus that they must not partake in the darkness. Christ redeemed us so that this would not be the trajectory of our lives. Can you and I practice unfruitful works of darkness? Absolutely!

How do we expose our unfruitful deeds of darkness?

Darkness hides the ugly reality of sin, self-centeredness, apathy, and unforgiveness. In the language we have been using for a few weeks now, we are called to confess. Remember, confessing is rehearsing and restating the truth of our salvation and the Gospel that was secured 2000 years ago. It is agreeing with God with the state of our hearts. Why? Because He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

4) We first and foremost expose/confess ourselves to Jesus, and He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Obviously, there are many times where we need to ask for forgiveness from others.

Why might we also need to confess/expose ourselves to another trusted Christian friend who can help us find healing (James 5:16)?

- It gives us an opportunity to be “known” and loved for who we really are. To hear from another human being about God's grace and that there is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1).
- It gives another an opportunity to speak truth and partner with us as we navigate our unfruitful deeds of darkness.
- It makes it more difficult to sin, because you have come out of hiding into the light.

What advice would you give to someone who is trying to select a safe person with whom to share his/her struggles?

What advice would you give to someone who is listening to someone who is sharing his/her struggle?

2020 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.