

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



9. Live as Children of Light

Introduction

Often we hear the expression, 'Practice what you preach'. This is really what Paul is saying in his letter to the believers in Ephesus. In the first half of the book he tells us about the grace that God has lavished upon us in Christ, but then he goes on to say, "Now you need to put this into practice." In the passage we are going to look at today, we are being urged to follow the example of Jesus Christ. We are to live or walk in love and to walk in the light.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:1-20

- † Paul has been speaking about living in love, but then he goes on and shows that some behaviour is contrary to God's kind of love. What specifically does he mention, and what are the consequences of this kind of behaviour? v3-7
- † Why is it that many Christians don't take Paul's warning in v5-6, 13 seriously?
- † How should we react when someone we are with makes a dirty joke? Discuss various scenes?
- † The Apostle Paul always reasons with those he writes to, showing why their lives should be different now they know Jesus Christ. What reasons does he give in v8-14? What do you find most difficult as a Christian, living in this dark world?

We have seen how as children of God we are to live in love, and we are to walk in the light. Then in v15 we are cautioned to also live wisely.

- † What can we learn about living wisely from these verses? v15-20
- † Share how thankfulness and praise have made a difference in your life. *(If you have not made this part of your life, then begin today!)*

Conclusion

The world around us is in spiritual darkness. Despite the fact that our technology is so advanced and knowledge has increased, mankind's moral standards have not changed! Man simply cannot change himself. However we have experienced God's grace and received his forgiveness, so now we are to walk in love and in the light. Nevertheless, we still live in this dark world, and so we need to walk carefully, knowing what God's will is. As we learn to give thanks, and sing praise, we will be lifted above the darkness and be empowered to live in victory.