

Three Responsibilities of Children of Light

Eph 5:8-11

Introduction:

- A. “Children of light” the opposite of “children of disobedience” (vv. 6-8).
 - 1. “Light” = all that is in harmony with God’s will.
 - 2. “Darkness” = all that out of harmony with God’s will.
- B. “Children of light” are assigned three responsibilities in the passage before us.

Discussion:

I. They Are to Prove What Is Acceptable unto the Lord (v. 10)

- A. “Prove” = “to recognize as genuine after examination” (Thayer)
 - 1. Here the idea is to experience for yourself (cf. Rom. 12:2)
 - 2. Like “the proof of the pudding in the eating.”
 - 3. By walking in light one puts the will of God to a practical test in their lives.
- B. Must be constructive not merely “aginers” - “What is” not “What is not”
 - 1. There are church responsibilities to meet.
 - a. Public worship (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7)
 - b. Share of the work of the church (Eph. 4:16)
 - c. Setting churches in order (Tit. 1:5)
 - 2. There are personal responsibilities to meet.
 - a. Personal evangelism (Acts 8:4)
 - b. Helping the needy (Jas. 1:27)
 - c. Daily obligations to life to be met (Rom. 13:8; 1 Tim. 5:8; 2 Thess. 3:10).
- C. Must be acceptable *unto the Lord.* – not self, not family, not brethren, but Lord.

II. They Are to Have No Fellowship with the Works of Darkness (vv. 11, 7)

- A. One may fellowship by participation or endorsement.
 - 1. Basic meaning is partnership or joint-participation.
 - 2. Also means to lend encouragement or endorsement (Gal. 2:9).
 - 3. Never used of “social fellowship” in Bible.
- B. Must have no fellowship with moral darkness (vv. 3-5)
- C. Must have no fellowship with spiritual (doctrinal) darkness (2 John 9-11)
 - 1. Instrument music in worship
 - 2. Christmas and Easter services
 - 3. Promotion of denominational programs
 - 4. False religious organizations via United Fund.
 - 5. Unscriptural works and programs of “churches of Christ.”

III. They Are to Reprove (Expose) the Works of Darkness (v. 11)

- A. Christian not faithful simply because does not participate or endorse evil.
 - 1. Must reprove or expose works for what they are.
 - 2. Gideon did not merely refuse to fellowship father’s altars – tore them down. (Judges 6)
- B. Churches not faithful simply for not participating in unscriptural works – must expose.
 - 1. Is preacher encouraged to preach against them?
 - 2. Is teaching programs geared to exposing error?
 - 3. Are preachers invited who are know to speak plainly against error – within and without?

Conclusion:

- A. Must be busy experiencing things acceptable unto God.
- B. Must at same time refuse to partake of sinful practices.
- C. Must also expose sinful practices for what there are.