Children of Light Rather than Children of Darkness
Eph. 5:1-21

Introduction:
A. Children are expected to follow (imitate) their parents. (v.1)
   1. From “MIMETES” (Noun); “MIMEOMAI” (Verb) cf. Eng. “Mimic”, “Mimeograph”.
   2. Jesus made a distinction between “Children” and mere “descendants”. (John 8: 37-45) Pharisees may have been Abraham’s descendants or seed, but they were not Abraham’s children because they did not imitate him.
B. As Children of light (v. 8 cf. “God is light” - 1 John 1:5) we are to display some marked contrasts to darkness.

Discussion:
I. Bible Love Rather Than Sinful Love (vv. 2, 3, 5)
   A. Bible love is primarily self-sacrificing (vv. 2)
   B. Sinful love is primarily self-gratifying (v. 3,5).
II. Fitting Speech Rather Than Foul Speech (4, 6).
   A. Thanksgiving rather than such unbecoming speech (v. 4)
   B. Words of value and truth, rather than emptiness and deception. (v. 6: cf. 2 Peter 2:18-22)
III. The Fruit Of Light Rather Than Unfruitful Works of Darkness (vv. 8-11)
   A. The fruit of light (ASV) is in “all goodness, righteousness and truth” (v. 9)
   B. The unfruitful works of darkness would be the opposite: Evil, unrighteousness, and error.
IV. Expose The Works Of Darkness Rather Fellowshipping Them. (v. 11-13)
   A. Must not fellowship the works of darkness.
      1. Not directly — by being partaker with them (v. 7)
      3. Not by enabling.
   B. Must expose the works of darkness.
      1. Not enough to withhold or break fellowship, must expose.
      2. Expose the real nature of the works of darkness.
         a. Sin and error thrives under cover darkness (deceit and secrecy).
      3. Exposure often requires being specific (cf. 3 John 9).
         a. Easy to oppose “sin”, “error”, “false teachers”
         b. But not so easy to expose specific sin, at specific place, at specific time, by specific person.
   C. Exposure requires effort on our part.
      1. Easier to accept a label than examine contents (cf. “Brother”, “church of Christ”).
      2. Easier to label than to really expose.
V. Walk Wisely rather than Walking Unwisely. (v. 15-17)
   A. By redeeming the time. (To “buy up”; idea is use time wisely while it is available)
   B. By understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Requires Study and effort)
VI. Filled with Spirit Rather than Filled With Wine. (vv. 18-21)
   A. Being filled with wine brings dissipation.
   B. Being filled with the Spirit brings singing and thanksgiving. (cf. Col. 3:15,16).

Conclusion:
A. Whose child are you? Have you been born again?
B. Whom do you imitate as dear children? Darkness or light?