

Children of Light (Part 6): Quit Downplaying or Excusing Worldly Living (5:1-17)

**1** Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children **2** and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**3** But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. **4** Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. **5** For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **6** Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. **7** Therefore do not be partners with them.

**8** For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light **9** (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) **10** and find out what pleases the Lord. **11** Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. **12** It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. **13** But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. **14** This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

**15** Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Ephesians 5:1-17

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***1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.***

***1. Unselfish, sacrificial, everlasting love, who's perfect example is Christ, turns the tide on worldly living when we recognize it, not only as the remedy for good living, but as the source of sustenance for mind, body, soul, and spirit.***

**16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

**1 John 3:16**

**18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.**

**1 John 3:18**

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***3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them.***

***2. Some of the main symptoms of Alzheimer's disease are memory loss, problems with language, disorientation, and mood swings. At times we suffer from "Spiritual Alzheimers" when we fall back on the junk food of our former ways of living instead of partaking in the banquet feast of truth, nobility, righteousness, purity, and loveliness.***

**8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**

**Phil 4:8**

**9 The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.**

**Psalms 19:9-10**

**8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said:**

**“Wake up, sleeper,  
rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”**

**3. The great awakenings of the past did not come through fancy talk, high tech gatherings, worship leaders in skinny jeans, or the promise of wealth and divine health. They came to individuals from the warmth and light of God’s Spirit, calling us to turn from our sin, our personal agendas, and RUN into His wonderful light. To begin the process of sanctification that puts to death sin and gives us renewed hearts and minds through the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.**

**9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.**

**1 Peter 2:9**

**15**

**Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,  
who walk in the light of your presence, Lord.**

**16**

**They rejoice in your name all day long;  
they celebrate your righteousness.**

**Psalms 85:15-16**

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**15 Be very careful, then, how you live— not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**

**4. WE ARE GOD'S SPECIAL POSSESSION!!! We have access to wisdom that is given to us in abundance if we only ask for it. Don't Give up....DON'T GIVE UP!!!!**

**Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.**

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

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