

Marriage and Family: Enjoying The Journey
301: Healthy Friends & Family / Part-1 Building Great Relationships

LESSON 10: Leave The Lights On. Let it Shine.

1. Christian Perspectives:

Ephesians 5:8-14 (NIV)

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 *For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.*

¹³ *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,*

¹⁴ *for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

2. Christian Principles and Practices:

2.1 Live in contrast to non-Christians

Ephesians 5:8 (NIV)

⁸ *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light*

Colossians 1:13 (NIV)

¹³ *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

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

1 Thessalonians 5:5 (NIV)

⁵ *You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.*

Matthew 5:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

2.2 Produce character qualities of walking in the light

Ephesians 5:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ *(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)*

¹⁰ *and find out what pleases the Lord.*

Matthew 7:16a (NIV)

¹⁶ *By their fruit you will recognize them.*

? **Goodness**

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

¹⁶ *In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and **praise your Father in heaven.***

? **Righteous Living**

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

? Truth

Ephesians 5:10 (NIV)
¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

2.3 Obey the command to avoid evil

Ephesians 5:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Ephesians 5:7 (NIV)

⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

2 Corinthians 6:14-17 (NIV)

¹⁴ Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

¹⁵ What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever?

¹⁶ What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

¹⁷ "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

2.4 Accept the commission to reprove evil

Ephesians 5:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

¹² For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,

2 Thessalonians 2:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time.

⁷ For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

Heed the call to awaken and shine for Christ

Ephesians 5:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Romans 13:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Matthew 13:43 (NIV)

⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

3. Discussion Questions:

3.1 How have you experienced "the light" coming on in your life in relationship with Christ?"

3.2 In what ways do you seek "goodness" toward others, "righteousness" in relationship with Christ, and "truth" (or integrity) in relationship with your own walk of "pleasing the Lord".

3.3 What changes have you had to make in coming from "fruitless deeds of darkness" and into the light of a walk with the Lord?

3.4 Is it easier to "expose fruitless deeds of darkness" in your own life or others? Why and what do you want to do about this?

3.5 What would it look like for you and your spouse to "walk in the light" more consistently?

3.6 Update prayer requests and pray over the issues discussed in this lesson.