

Go through the “Outline of Ephesians” from page 4 as a review.

This passage continues the emphasis on believers being imitators of God as His beloved children, walking in love as Jesus loved us, and putting off sexual immorality and impurity (5:1-4). Although we’ve been looking at the ‘doers’ (the old man) in :5-6, in :7-14 ‘WALK’ is still the subject. As we are Light in the Lord (identity), WALK as children of Light because that’s who we are now IN Christ! :7-10 **Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what (proving what) is pleasing to the Lord.**

:7-8 **Stop becoming partakers with them.** Because such ‘old-man practices’ are not compatible with the new man, ‘sons of disobedience’ will not inherit the kingdom of God, and God’s wrath is being poured out upon ‘unbelievers’, don’t become joint-partakers with them, **for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord! What fellowship has light with darkness (2 Cor. 6:14)?** We WERE dead in sins, sons of disobedience, and children of wrath (2:1-3). We WERE darkness. Our total existence, our being/nature as well as our walk, was characterized by darkness. But this is a past condition. Now as the very offspring of Him who is Light, walk like it. **Read Jn. 3:19-21, 1 Jn. 1:5-7. Walk [present imperative] as children of Light (Mt. 5:14-16).** Jesus is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 9:12). He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). Walk that way because this is who God has made us by nature. Remain true to who you are IN Christ.

This walk is explained in :9: **(For the fruit of the Light consists in all (every act of) goodness, righteousness, and truth):** Like a parenthesis, Paul explains what the fruit of a child of Light reveals. This gives us a standard to evaluate our walk, our thinking, motives, speech, behavior, choices. All people are fruit-bearers, some for God, some for death. Are we seeing the fruit of :9, of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23, Rom. 7:4), and of the new man?

What do you expect to get if you plant an apple tree? Apples! If you plant a ‘light’ tree, what can you expect to get? Light! If you plant a ‘Jesus’ tree, what can you expect to get? Jesus! Being true to nature, this only makes sense! **Goodness:** actively ready to extend help beyond the demands of strict justice. A fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Also see Eph. 2:10, Titus 2:14. **Righteousness:** giving to both God and men what is right/just. Present your unredeemed body members as instruments of righteousness to God (Rom. 6:13). **Truth:** reality, reliable, real, genuine. Our lives reveal Jesus is THE truth and so is His Word. Paul says the Church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). These last 2 qualities are identified with the new man in 4:24. Producing what only God can do, without this fruit, there is no evidence of the life of or a walk with God.

:10 After the ( ), he resumes the Christian’s walk, further developed in :17. **Trying to learn what (proving what) is pleasing to the Lord.** Learn all that is good and right and true; it will please the Lord. Our thinking/motives/choices/speech/actions **tested and approved** by the Lord Jesus Himself. Pass-Fail is not in mind but putting to the test for the purpose of approval. What? Who? Why?

Revealing their true nature, the light and fruit enable us to discriminate between that which is well-pleasing and that which is not pleasing to God. Lusts of deceit, falsehood, unrighteous anger, stealing, unwholesome speech, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice, immorality, impurity, greed, idolatry, bring no benefit to man or glory to God. These are the deeds of the old man, the fruit of death. So, when a sinful thought comes to mind, don’t own it! Immediately state, “That is not the new-man God has created me! I choose to walk by faith in the Person and work of Jesus by the power of the Spirit within me.”

:11-14 **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose (reprove) them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed (reproved) by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it (or He) says, “Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”**

:11 **Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness.** Another command: Make it your practice to take no part in the unproductive, unfruitful, barren, useless works of the old man. These deeds are too shameful even to be named. Notice, it’s deeds (the walk), not doers, that are the issues in :8-14. The deeds must be shunned, not the doers (see :7). The world does not know how to function righteously in relationships because it lives in darkness. They are acting out who they are. Why would we become joint partakers with them?

**Instead even expose (reprove) them** (another command)! The walk of the old man and the walk of the new man are mutually exclusive. Light by nature exposes what is in darkness. Here it reveals the old man’s walk for what it really is. Remarkably, it doesn’t say to denounce them by words, but expose them by letting Light shine. Let others see—in your choices, actions, and speech, goodness, righteousness, and truth—what godly speech is like, what godly actions are. **For it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.** Even without talking about their sinful practices (5:3-4), expose their unfruitful deeds. “Darkness is not driven away by preaching at it; darkness is dispelled by the presence of Light.” Let the light of Christ shine through. It is only the Body of Christ, the Church, individual Christians who can display to the world the true nature of Light, truth, goodness, righteousness, who can imitate God and walk in Christ’s love.

:12 How? As we “3:16-19” it, as we walk the life of the new man, a life of Light. The world isn’t drawn to Christ by Christians denouncing their sins. How are we to expose them and yet not talk about their despicable practices? Live a life of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Use these opportunities as an open door for evangelism. Let people see what God has intended for life.

:13 Every single thing becomes visible, plainly evident. Whenever the light of Christ appears, it shows up sin for what it is. Customer must take the merchandise out into the sunshine. Light refers to both believers and their fruit. Practice 4:20-6:18. Our lives of goodness, righteousness, and truth, our lives of practicing 4:1-6 as the Church, of each of us speaking truth, practicing righteous anger, working good, speaking edifying, gracious words, being kind,

tender-hearted, acting in grace, imitating God, and walking in Christ's love, will expose their unfruitful deeds of darkness and let them know there's another way. That person needs to be born again in order to change. Just stopping something doesn't change HIM/HER. If referring to Christians, that person needs to learn to walk by the Spirit.

**:14** Perhaps from **Is. 60:1**, "**Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of Yahweh has risen upon you...Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.**" Here Paul addresses this to Christians. Sleeper...dead. 2 images that can describe a sinner or a Christian who is walking like the old man. Obey this command, "Wake from your sleep. You in darkness, asleep, dead, wake up! Be raised from the dead! This is no time for sleep or the old walk! Walk as children of LIGHT! Just like the glory of Yahweh shining on Israel, the radiance of the Lord's presence shines on you." An invitation, a call for those to come to the Light or to walk as the Light they are.

How is it evident from your life that you believe these truths? What about your practices, behavior, speech, choices? I pray we recognize we are Light and practice the new walk that is pleasing to our Lord. Live a life consistent with who you are and remember you've put on the new man. The light of Christ shining through the lives of those who have come to know Him breaks in. God shines 'out of' darkness (**2 Cor. 4:6**). What a God!

Practical Ways to Apply God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (**Mt. 11:28-30**) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**). Practice ECRAT: Examine, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
2. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play as a husband, wife, parent, child. Be sure you're remaining true to who you are.
3. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Also, consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24-25**). Do good to all **Gal. 6:10**. Also see **Eph. 4:1-16** and **Rom. 12:3-13** which describe the 'walk' of the Church.
4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21**, **1 Cor. 13:1-8a**, **Eph. 4:20-6:18**, and **1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.
6. **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).** Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).  
Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

## Overview of Ephesians 1:1-6:24

**1-3** Church (all Christians): Realize What God Has Done for You!

**4-6** Church (all Christians): Understand How to Walk Worthy of God's Calling.

**1:1-14** Blessed with every spiritual blessing: Made holy and blameless, God's sons, forgiven, redeemed, assured of an inheritance, sealed.

**1:15-23** Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> prayer, then emphasizing God's inherent power. God the Father's power revealed in how He worked in Jesus' earthly life.

**2:1-10** God's power revealed in how He worked in our lives: taking individuals dead in sins and trespasses, sons of disobedience, and children of wrath, making every believer alive in Christ, raised up with Christ, seated with Christ, and His workmanship!

**2:11-3:13** God's power revealed in how He worked with believing Jews and believing Gentiles, creating them one new man, making all fellow citizens with the saints, of His household, His holy temple, His dwelling, fellow heirs and fellow members of the one Body of Christ, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

**3:14-21** Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> prayer: for God to grant them to be strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner man, to lay hold of and experience the love of Christ, and to be filled up to all the fullness of God! The Spirit's power, Christ's love, the Father's fullness. **Read 3:20-21.**

**4:1-16** How the Church should walk worthy of God's calling. How Jesus' life in and through ours as His Body will show up in everyday life.

**4:17-5:21** How individual Christians should walk worthy of God's calling. How Jesus' life in & through ours will show up in our everyday lives.

**5:22-6:9** Specific applications to Spirit-filled wives and husbands, children and parents, and workers and bosses. Jesus' life/love through us.

**6:10-17** Christians are under attack! Who each Christian's true enemy is and how to stand firm in the midst of his attacks.

**6:18-24** An encouragement to pray for each other and some closing thoughts. **Read 6:23-24.**

INTRO **4:1-16** walk in unity. **4:17-32** walk in holiness. **5:1-6** walk in love. **5:7-14** walk in light. **5:15-21** Walk in wisdom. A stark contrast between the old man's walk and the new man's walk. Don't be partakers with the practices of the old man. Why? Because that is no longer who you as a Christian are!

**:7 Stop becoming** (present middle or passive imperative) **joint-partakers with them**. **:8 For you were** (imperfect) **formerly darkness**. You were!! "Were" indicates a past condition that no longer exists. **But now you are Light in the Lord**: So... **Walk** (present active imperative) **as children (borne ones) of Light**. Walk is to order one's behavior, be habitually conducting yourselves.

We know God is light (**1 Jn. 1:5**) but in this context, Christ is identified as the Light (also **5:14**, also see **Jn. 1:4,5,9**). The Philippian Christians were said to shine as lights in the world (**Phil. 2:15**). We walk in the light as God Himself is in the light (**1 Jn. 1:5-7**). **Rom. 13:12** lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

**:9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all (every act of) goodness and righteousness and truth)**. **4:25-5:7** gives us more: Every kind of **goodness**: Part of God's character. **Righteousness** first has to do with our relationship with God, but it also has to do with how we walk. Where there is Light, there is evidence of it. Over a period of time, the absence of such fruit proves the absence of Light.

Spiritual works that can't be achieved by the flesh. You will know them by their fruit (**Mt. 7:15-16**). The old man bears rotten fruit, fruit for death, while the new man bears good fruit, fruit for God (**Rom. 7:4-5**). The fruit of the Spirit (**Gal. 5:22-23**).

**Goodness** refers to making the proper use of things instead of perverting them. Moral excellence. **Righteousness** The peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by God's discipline (**Heb. 12:11**). **Truth**: Faithfulness, reliable, honesty, trustworthiness. The opposite: evil, injustice, and falsehood.

Assurance of salvation can't be reliably determined by what has happened in the past, no matter how dramatic or meaningful at the time.

**:10 Trying to learn** (present active participle) **what is** (present) **pleasing to the Lord**. It is in our Lord Jesus and His goodness, righteousness, and truth. Trying to learn carries the idea of proving or testing; Meets the specs. To test, discern, and approve. **Rom. 12:2b**. You're going to see the God's fruit if you are walking as children of light. In these verses, the apostle does not set one kind of fruit over against another; it is a matter of fruit or no fruit. Only a child of God dependent on the indwelling Holy Spirit can produce such fruit.

**:11** The 1<sup>st</sup> command in this verse. Don't be involved in unfruitful deeds of darkness. **Do not participate** (present active imperative) **in the unfruitful deeds of darkness (1 Cor. 5:9-11, 2 Cor. 6:14-18, 2 Th. 3:6,14)**. To become a partaker together with others. To compromise God's standards is to weaken our witness. Unfruitful, unproductive, barren; they have no beneficial results. A 2<sup>nd</sup> command: **But instead even expose** (present active imperative) **them**. Here Light reveals the old man's walk for what it really is.

By their good/righteous/truthful behavior. They are to tear away the mask from these wrong concepts & reveal the truth. Let people see that God has intended for sex to be wholesome, beautiful, wonderful, & protected by the bonds of marriage.

Expose can also carry the idea of reproof, correction, punishment, or discipline. This is what Light invariably does. The Christian, by a life so essentially different

(goodness, righteousness, truth, plus **4:25-5:7**) from those around him, rather than by reproof in speech, is to expose their sins. Simply by letting the light of Christ shine through and show them up.

Whose deeds are to be exposed? It is more likely that it refers to believers who are participating in unfruitful works of darkness?? Remember, it's put off, put on.

**:12 For it is disgraceful even to speak** (present active) **of the things which are** (present) **done** (present middle or passive participle) **by them in secret**. Although done in secret, their deeds are exposed. Incredible! We can give God's diagnosis and solution for sins without portraying every sordid detail nor even speaking of them.

**:13 But all** (not one thing missed) **things become visible** (present passive) **when they are exposed** (present passive participle) **by the light**. Evil can no longer masquerade as anything else. Darkness hides; light makes visible. **For everything that becomes visible** (present passive participle) **is** (present) **light**. Things are seen for what they truly are. Walk as children of light and so expose any works that are unfruitful. **Visible**, manifest, plainly seen, demonstrably evident.

The living of life as God intended people to live. Hold everything up to the Person of Jesus and the light of Scripture; they are our authority. Walk is the subject. Paul is saying what to put off, what to put on, and why. This is a contrast between the walk of the old man in Adam and the walk of the new man in Christ.

**:14 For this reason it says** (present active). **Awake** (present active imperative), **sleepers** (present active participle), **and arise** (aorist active middle) **from the dead**. Awaken! Arise (aorist) denoting urgency!

**and Christ will shine** (future active) **on you**. This is the good effect of not participating but exposing, of walking as children of light.

The main emphasis in the present context is on the restoration of Christians who were co-partners with the unfruitful works of darkness. Believers who have fallen into a spiritual stupor are to wake up!! Conversion is nothing less than awaking from our sleep, rising from death, and being brought out of darkness into the light to Christ. The new walk should be nothing less.

CONCL **Prov. 4:18** says, "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day." "May we willingly trust You and find in You all that we need to walk in a world of darkness. Please continue to show us what "goodness, righteousness, and truth" look like in our world today.

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**4-6** Church (all Christians): Understand How to Walk Worthy of God's Calling.

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:7-8 **Stop becoming partakers with them.** Because such ‘old-man practices’ are not compatible with the new man, ‘sons of disobedience’ will not inherit the kingdom of God, and God’s wrath is being poured out upon ‘unbelievers’, don’t become joint-partakers with them, **for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord! What fellowship has light with darkness (2 Cor. 6:14)?** We WERE dead in sins, sons of disobedience, and children of wrath (2:1-3). We WERE darkness. Our total existence, our being/nature as well as our walk, was characterized by darkness. But this is a past condition. Now as the very offspring of Him who is Light, walk like it. **Read Jn. 3:19-21, 1 Jn. 1:5-7. Walk [present imperative] as children of Light (Mt. 5:14-16).** Jesus is the light of the world (Jn. 8:12, 9:12). He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). Walk that way because this is who God has made us by nature. Remain true to who you are IN Christ.

This walk is explained in :9: **(For the fruit of the Light consists in all (every act of) goodness, righteousness, and truth):** Like a parenthesis, Paul explains what the fruit of a child of Light reveals. This gives us a standard to evaluate our walk, our thinking, motives, speech, behavior, choices. All people are fruit-bearers, some for God, some for death. Are we seeing the fruit of :9, of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23, Rom. 7:4), and of the new man?

What do you expect to get if you plant an apple tree? Apples! If you plant a ‘light’ tree, what can you expect to get? Light! If you plant a ‘Jesus’ tree, what can you expect to get? Jesus! Being true to nature, this only makes sense!

**Goodness:** actively ready to extend help beyond the demands of strict justice. A fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Also see Eph. 2:10, Titus 2:14. **Righteousness:** Giving to both God and men what is right/just. Present your unredeemed body members as instruments of righteousness to God (Rom. 6:13). **Truth:** reality, reliable, real, genuine. Our lives reveal Jesus is THE truth and so is His Word. Paul says the Church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). These last 2 qualities are identified with the new man in 4:24. Producing what only God can do, without this fruit, there is no evidence of the life of or a walk with God.

:10 After the ( ), he resumes the Christian’s walk, further developed in :17. **Trying to learn what (proving what) is pleasing to the Lord.** Learn all that is good and right and true; it will please the Lord. Our thinking/motives/choices/speech/actions **tested and approved** by the Lord Jesus Himself. Pass-Fail is not in mind but putting to the test for the purpose of approval. What? Who? Why?

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Revealing their true nature, the light and fruit enable us to discriminate between that which is well-pleasing and that which is not pleasing to God. Lusts of deceit, falsehood, unrighteous anger, stealing, unwholesome speech, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, slander, malice, immorality, impurity, greed, idolatry, bring no benefit to man or glory to God. These are the deeds of the old man, the fruit of death. So, when a sinful thought comes to mind, don't own it! Immediately state, "That is not the new-man God has created me! I choose to walk by faith in the Person and work of Jesus by the power of the Spirit within me."

**:11-14 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose (reprove) them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed (reproved) by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. For this reason it (or He) says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."**

**:11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness.** Another command: Make it your practice to take no part in the unproductive, unfruitful, barren, useless works of the old man. These deeds are too shameful even to be named. Notice, it's deeds (the walk), not doers, that are the issues in **:8-14**. The deeds must be shunned, not the doers (see **:7**). The world does not know how to function righteously in relationships because it lives in darkness. They are acting out who they are. Why would we become joint partakers with them?

**Instead even expose (reprove) them** (another command)! The walk of the old man and the walk of the new man are mutually exclusive. Light by nature exposes what is in darkness. Here it reveals the old man's walk for what it really is. Remarkably, it doesn't say to denounce them by words, but expose them by letting Light shine. Let others see—in your choices, actions, and speech, goodness, righteousness, and truth—what godly speech is like, what godly actions are. **For it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.** Even without talking about their sinful practices (**5:3-4**), expose their unfruitful deeds. "Darkness is not driven away by preaching at it; darkness is dispelled by the presence of Light." Let the light of Christ shine through. It is only the Body of Christ, the Church, individual Christians who can display to the world the true nature of Light, truth, goodness, righteousness, who can imitate God and walk in Christ's love.

**:12** How? As we "**3:16-19**" it, as we walk the life of the new man, a life of Light. The world isn't drawn to Christ by Christians denouncing their sins. How are we to expose them and yet not talk about their despicable practices? Live a life of goodness, righteousness, and truth. Use these opportunities as an open door for evangelism. Let people see what God has intended for life.

**:13** Every single thing becomes visible, plainly evident. Whenever the light of Christ appears, it shows up sin for what it is. Customer must take the merchandise out into the sunshine. Light refers to both believers and their fruit. Practice **4:20-6:18**. Our lives of goodness, righteousness, and truth, our lives of practicing **4:1-6** as the Church, of each of us speaking truth, practicing righteous anger, working good, speaking edifying, gracious words, being kind,

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tender-hearted, acting in grace, imitating God, and walking in Christ's love, will expose their unfruitful deeds of darkness and let them know there's another way. That person needs to be born again in order to change. Just stopping something doesn't change HIM/HER. If referring to Christians, that person needs to learn to walk by the Spirit.

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How is it evident from your life that you believe these truths? What about your practices, behavior, speech, choices? I pray we recognize we are Light and practice the new walk that is pleasing to our Lord. Live a life consistent with who you are and remember you've put on the new man. The light of Christ shining through the lives of those who have come to know Him breaks in. God shines 'out of' darkness (**2 Cor. 4:6**). What a God!

Practical Ways to Apply God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (**Mt. 11:28-30**) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**). Practice ECRAT: Examine, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
2. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play as a husband, wife, parent, child. Be sure you're remaining true to who you are.
3. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Also, consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (**Heb. 10:24-25**). Do good to all **Gal. 6:10**. Also see **Eph. 4:1-16** and **Rom. 12:3-13** which describe the 'walk' of the Church.
4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.
6. **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13).**

Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).

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## Overview of Ephesians 1:1-6:24

**1-3** Church (all Christians): Realize What God Has Done for You!

**4-6** Church (all Christians): Understand How to Walk Worthy of God's Calling.

**1:1-14** Blessed with every spiritual blessing: Made holy and blameless, God's sons, forgiven, redeemed, assured of an inheritance, sealed.

**1:15-23** Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> prayer, then emphasizing God's inherent power. God the Father's power revealed in how He worked in Jesus' earthly life.

**2:1-10** God's power revealed in how He worked in our lives: taking individuals dead in sins and trespasses, sons of disobedience, and children of wrath, making every believer alive in Christ, raised up with Christ, seated with Christ, and His workmanship!

**2:11-3:13** God's power revealed in how He worked with believing Jews and believing Gentiles, creating them one new man, making all fellow citizens with the saints, of His household, His holy temple, His dwelling, fellow heirs and fellow members of the one Body of Christ, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus.

**3:14-21** Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> prayer: for God to grant them to be strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner man, to lay hold of and experience the love of Christ, and to be filled up to all the fullness of God! The Spirit's power, Christ's love, the Father's fullness. **Read 3:20-21.**

**4:1-16** How the Church should walk worthy of God's calling. How Jesus' life in and through ours as His Body will show up in everyday life.

**4:17-5:21** How individual Christians should walk worthy of God's calling. How Jesus' life in & through ours will show up in our everyday lives.

**5:22-6:9** Specific applications to Spirit-filled wives and husbands, children and parents, and workers and bosses. Jesus' life/love through us.

**6:10-17** Christians are under attack! Who each Christian's true enemy is and how to stand firm in the midst of his attacks.

**6:18-24** An encouragement to pray for each other and some closing thoughts. **Read 6:23-24.**

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INTRO **4:1-16** walk in unity. **4:17-32** walk in holiness. **5:1-6** walk in love. **5:7-14** walk in light. **5:15-21** Walk in wisdom. A stark contrast between the old man's walk and the new man's walk. Don't be partakers with the practices of the old man. Why? Because that is no longer who you as a Christian are!

**:7 Stop becoming** (present middle or passive imperative) **joint-partakers with them**. **:8 For you were** (imperfect) **formerly darkness**. You were!! "Were" indicates a past condition that no longer exists. **But now you are Light in the Lord**: So... **Walk** (present active imperative) **as children (borne ones) of Light**. Walk is to order one's behavior, be habitually conducting yourselves.

We know God is light (**1 Jn. 1:5**) but in this context, Christ is identified as the Light (also **5:14**, also see **Jn. 1:4,5,9**). The Philippian Christians were said to shine as lights in the world (**Phil. 2:15**). We walk in the light as God Himself is in the light (**1 Jn. 1:5-7**). **Rom. 13:12** lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

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Spiritual works that can't be achieved by the flesh. You will know them by their fruit (**Mt. 7:15-16**). The old man bears rotten fruit, fruit for death, while the new man bears good fruit, fruit for God (**Rom. 7:4-5**). The fruit of the Spirit (**Gal. 5:22-23**).

**Goodness** refers to making the proper use of things instead of perverting them. Moral excellence. **Righteousness** The peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by God's discipline (**Heb. 12:11**). **Truth**: Faithfulness, reliable, honesty, trustworthiness. The opposite: evil, injustice, and falsehood.

Assurance of salvation can't be reliably determined by what has happened in the past, no matter how dramatic or meaningful at the time.

**:10 Trying to learn** (present active participle) **what is** (present) **pleasing to the Lord**. It is in our Lord Jesus and His goodness, righteousness, and truth. Trying to learn carries the idea of proving or testing; Meets the specs. To test, discern, and approve. **Rom. 12:2b**. You're going to see the God's fruit if you are walking as children of light. In these verses, the apostle does not set one kind of fruit over against another; it is a matter of fruit or no fruit.

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By their good/righteous/truthful behavior. They are to tear away the mask from these wrong concepts & reveal the truth. Let people see that God has intended for sex to be wholesome, beautiful, wonderful, & protected by the bonds of marriage.

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Expose can also carry the idea of reproof, correction, punishment, or discipline. This is what Light invariably does. The Christian, by a life so essentially different (goodness, righteousness, truth, plus **4:25-5:7**) from those around him, rather than

by reproof in speech, is to expose their sins. Simply by letting the light of Christ shine through and show them up.

Whose deeds are to be exposed? It is more likely that it refers to believers who are participating in unfruitful works of darkness?? Remember, it's put off, put on.

**:12 For it is disgraceful even to speak** (present active) **of the things which are** (present) **done** (present middle or passive participle) **by them in secret**. Although done in secret, their deeds are exposed. Incredible! We can give God's diagnosis and solution for sins without portraying every sordid detail nor even speaking of them.

**:13 But all** (not one thing missed) **things become visible** (present passive) **when they are exposed** (present passive participle) **by the light**. Evil can no longer masquerade as anything else. Darkness hides; light makes visible. **For everything that becomes visible** (present passive participle) **is** (present) **light**. Things are seen for what they truly are. Walk as children of light and so expose any works that are unfruitful. **Visible**, manifest, plainly seen, demonstrably evident.

The living of life as God intended people to live. Hold everything up to the Person of Jesus and the light of Scripture; they are our authority. Walk is the subject. Paul is saying what to put off, what to put on, and why. This is a contrast between the walk of the old man in Adam and the walk of the new man in Christ.

**:14 For this reason it says** (present active). **Awake** (present active imperative), **sleeper** (present active participle), **and arise** (aorist active middle) **from the dead**. Awaken! Arise (aorist) denoting urgency!

**and Christ will shine** (future active) **on you**. This is the good effect of not participating but exposing, of walking as children of light.

The main emphasis in the present context is on the restoration of Christians who were co-partners with the unfruitful works of darkness. Believers who have fallen into a spiritual stupor are to wake up!! Conversion is nothing less than awaking from our sleep, rising from death, and being brought out of darkness into the light to Christ. The new walk should be nothing less.

CONCL **Prov. 4:18** says, "But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, that shines brighter and brighter until the full day." "May we willingly trust You and find in You all that we need to walk in a world of darkness. Please continue to show us what "goodness, righteousness, and truth" look like in our world today.

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