

Ephesians Series

Lesson #219

January 14, 2024

Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

© 2024, Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

We Are Light in the Lord – Part 2

Ephesians 5:8–9



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

EPHESIANS

WEALTH

1:3–3:21

Prayer of thanksgiving to God for His provision of this new position in Christ. 3:14–21

WALK

4:1–6:9

Walk carefully in biblical wisdom.
5:15–6:9

WARFARE

6:10–20

Put on the whole armor of God that you may stand. 6:10–20

Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”

Eph. 5:2, “And walk by means of love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Eph. 5:8, “For y’all were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Eph. 5:10, “by evaluating to determine what is acceptable/pleasing to the Lord.” [RD]

Three things we need to understand this passage:

- 1. What the Bible Teaches about Light**
- 2. What the Bible Teaches About our Position in the Light,
and**
- 3. Our Walk in the Light**

What the Bible Teaches About

Light, Life, Darkness



1. Light is used as a metaphor to describe the essence, the character of God, His essential being. “God is light.”

1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

1 Tim. 6:16, “who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”

6. Specifically, light then describes more specifically the facets or components of God's Integrity: the combination of His righteousness, justice, and truth.

Psa. 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; Loving kindness and truth go before Thee."

Psa. 89:15, "How blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O LORD, they walk in the light of Thy countenance."

14. Summary to this point.

- **God is light.**
- **Jesus is the light of the world.**
- **Jesus' light brings life into the world, light and life are connected and dispel the darkness.**
- **But the darkness rejects the light.**
- **But the one who comes to the light, become sons of light and are to not abide in darkness.**
- **Satan is the master counterfeiter of light.**

15. Since God is light (point 1, 1 John 1:5), we are to live our lives in the light to have fellowship with one another.

1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Three things we need to understand this passage:

- 1. What the Bible Teaches about Light**
- 2. What the Bible Teaches About our Position in the Light,
and**
- 3. Our Walk in the Light**

17. Our new legal position, adopted into the royal family of God, is LIGHT.

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

1 Thess. 5:5, “You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.”

**Eternal
Realities**

**Temporal
Realities**

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”
ACTS 16:31



IN CHRIST

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

**“now you are
light in the
Lord”**

Rom. 6:3, “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized [identified] into Christ Jesus were baptized [identified] into His death?”

Rom. 6:4, “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

**18. But in our experience, we walk or think, talk, live either
in the light or in darkness.**

Eternal Realities

Temporal Realities

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”



ACTS 16:31

IN CHRIST

Baptism by the Holy Spirit

“Now you are light in the Lord”

WALKING BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Walk as children of light”

“Filled by the Holy Spirit”

1 John 1:9



Walking in Darkness
Sin Nature Control

1 John 1:5, “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness [our position as unbelievers], but now you are light in the Lord [our new identity in Christ].

Walk as children of light!”

[But this implies we can walk like children of darkness]

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

19. We are not to partner (have no fellowship) with the works of darkness, but expose them.

Eph. 5:11, “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.

Eph. 5:12, “For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

Eph. 5:13, “But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.”

Matt. 5:14, “You are the light of the world. [position, identity] A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matt. 5:15, “Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Matt. 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men [experience, temporal realities], that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Our Walk in the Light



Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit* is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

There is a textual variant here. Some manuscripts (mss.) have “light,” which fits with what is said in verse 8. It is possible that a copyist could have seen Light in the original and changed it to Spirit to be consistent with Gal. 5:22–23. Many translators choose this option—light is the original!

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit* is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

However, this is a two-way argument. Paul could have originally written “Spirit” because He wanted to show the connection between walking in the Light and walking by the Spirit. A copyist could have inserted light to clarify the connection between fruit of the light and fruit of the Spirit.

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Conclusion:

The Scriptures consistently show a contrast between two possible options:

living like unbelievers	or	living like believers;
walking in the darkness	or	walking in light;
not abiding in Christ	or	abiding in Christ;
walking according to the flesh	or	walking according to the Spirit.

John 15:5, “ ‘I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.’ ”

The fruit is not described in John 15, but the reality is that **walking in the Light, walking by the Spirit, abiding in Christ** are each said to be the *necessary* and *sole condition* of fruit production in the Christian life. Therefore they must be equivalent.

What is fruit production?

Gal. 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal. 5:23, “gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

To be Christ-like

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

ἀγαθωσύνη *agathōsunē*

fem sing dat

goodness; the idea of goodness, generosity which benefits others.

“Consist in the character of gracious generosity in kindness and benefits toward others”

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJV]

**ἀγαθωσύνη *agathōsunē*
fem sing dat
goodness; the idea of
goodness, generosity which
benefits others.
“Consist in the character of
gracious generosity in
kindness and benefits
toward others”**

**δικαιοσύνη *dikaioṣunē*
fem sing dat
expresses the quality of
righteousness or justice.
Here it speaks of our
righteous actions.**

**Php. 1:11, “having been
already filled with the fruits
of righteousness which *are*
by Jesus Christ, to the
glory and praise of God.”**

Eph. 5:9, “(for the fruit of the Spirit/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),” [NKJ

**ἀγαθωσύνη *agathōsunē*
fem sing dat
goodness; the idea of
goodness, generosity which
benefits others.
“Consist in the character of
gracious generosity in
kindness and benefits
toward others”**

**δικαιοσύνη *dikaïosunē*
fem sing dat
expresses the quality of
righteousness or justice.
Here it speaks of our
righteous actions.**

**ἀλήθεια *alētheia* fem sing
dat
truth, truthfulness, what is
actual, in contrast to the
false**

Eph. 4:21, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus:”

Eph. 4:24, “and that you have already put on the new man which was created according to God, ‘in righteousness and purity of the truth.’ ” [RD, HCSB]

John 17:17, “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

John 17:19, “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

Contrast: BUT

Rom. 2:8, “but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,”

What then should be the result?

The Christian way of life begins with the walk by the Spirit; *according to* the Spirit; *abiding in* Christ; *walking in* the Light of God's Word, with the result that our thinking, decisions, priorities, relationships become transformed as we reflect the character of Christ.

John 15:7, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,” ... [NKJV]

John 17:17, “Sanctify them by means of Truth, Your Word is Truth.”

Rom. 12:2, “... be transformed by the renewing of your thinking ...”