

Ephesians Series

Lesson #222

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Separation; Exposure from the Light

Ephesians 5:11–14



EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK
& WARFARE
OF THE BELIEVER

Last week: Do not partner with darkness.

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;**
- 3. What the Bible Teaches about our Walk in the LIGHT;**
- 4. What the Bible Teaches about HOW we Walk in the LIGHT.**

Eph. 5:8, “For you 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/light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),

Eph. 5:10, “finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.

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.

Eph. 5:14, “Therefore He says: ‘Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.’ ”

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δοκιμάζω *dokimazō*

**pres act part masc plur nom
to prove, approve, test, assay,
evaluate something for what is
beneficial, good, and valuable.**

**A participle of means, “by
evaluating to determine ...”**

**“to evaluate or scrutinize
something for what is valuable”**

**εὐάρεστος *euarestos*
neut sing nom (verbal)
pleasing, acceptable**

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.” [NKJV]

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Separation



1. Separation in Scripture is emphasized because of the negative influence those around us can have. We are to separate from various influences which can distract us from our spiritual life.

**1 Cor. 15:33, “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts/
destroys good habits/character/morals.’ ”**

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πλανάω *planaō* 2
plur pres mid
impera to
wander; deceive

1 Cor. 15:34, “Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”

1 Cor. 15:34, “Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame.”

**ἐκνήφω *eknēphō* 2 plur aor act impera
to think objectively on the basis of truth and
reality as defined by God the Creator; often
this has a focus on preparation for the
future imminent return of Christ that we are
prepared through first of all salvation, and
then justification.**

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

2 Cor. 6:14, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? And what fellowship/partnership has light with darkness?” [RD]

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**ἕτεροζυγέω *heterozygeō*,
be unequally yoked, be
mismatched. The result is
conflict and failure.**

**κοινωνία *koinōnia*
fem sing nom
fellowship, participation;
partnership toward a
common goal**

**μετοχή *metochē*
fem sing nom
partnership,
participation; a
close synonym to
fellowship**

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συμφώνησις *sumphōnēsis*
fem sing nom
BDAG: a state of shared interests; from the noun describing a sound produced by several instruments, where we get symphony, a harmonious working together

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μερίς *meris*
fem sing nom
part, portion (here the inheritance of God common to all believers)

2 Cor. 6:16, “And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’ ”

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συγκατάθεσις *sugkatathesis*

fem sing nom

agreement, union

No possible real union

between believer and

unbeliever!

Contrasts in 2 Cor. 6:14–15

righteousness

light

Christ

believer

temple of God

not with

lawlessness

darkness

Belial

unbeliever

idols

2. Often in history Christians have abused this teaching.

1) In our new identity we are no longer of the world, we have been positionally removed from the ownership of the world or the kosmic system, and Christ has positionally removed us from the world. But we have to learn experientially to quit thinking like the world.

John 15:19, “If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.”

Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of this world, but be transformed by the renovation of your thinking, that you may evaluate to demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and sufficient.” [RD]

2) Though we are no longer “of the world”, we are not necessarily to physically remove ourselves from all things, because we are to have a ministry to the world. We are to pray as Jesus prayed:

John 17:15, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

John 17:16, “They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.”

John 17:18, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

John 17:21, “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

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

Eph. 4:2, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, putting up with one another in love

Eph. 4:3, “striving to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Eph. 4:4, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;

Eph. 4:5, “one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Eph. 4:6, “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

**Neither are we to assimilate to the world in our thinking.
This is the life we are to have and this is the description we
are working through.**

Physical separation and also thought separation.

3) One key aspect that demonstrates this distinction Paul keeps mentioning throughout this section is the content of our conversations.

Eph. 4:15, “but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—”

Eph. 4:25, “Therefore, having already put off the lie, ‘Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,’ for we are members of one another.”

Eph. 4:29, “Let no rotten word [representing the lie] proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.”

Eph. 4:31, “Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and blasphemy [be put away from you,] with all malice.”

Eph. 5:3, “But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints;

Eph. 5:4, “neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.”

Eph. 5:11, “And have no partnership 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.”

ἐλέγχω *elegchō* 2 plur pres act imperative

① to scrutinize or examine carefully, bring to light, expose, set forth

In this sense it is used as a synonym for *dokimazo* in 5:10.

② to bring a person to the point of recognizing wrongdoing, convict, convince

③ to express strong disapproval of someone’s action, reprove, correct

We Will Not Be Silenced: Responding Courageously to Our Culture's Assault on Christianity, 2020

No Reason to Hide: Standing for Christ in a Collapsing Culture, 2022

~Dr. Erwin Lutzer

1. We expose them to ourselves by coming to understand them and how they conflict with biblical TRUTH. We must learn that, as products of our own culture and still influenced by our own culture. It is like a person who is quite clean and tidy and must walk through a barn. It is inevitable that we pick up some muck on our shoes that needs to be cleaned off.

2. We expose these things to our children within the matrix of the home.

Deut. 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

Deut. 6:5, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Deut. 6:6, “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

Deut. 6:7, “You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

Deut. 6:8, “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

Deut. 6:9, “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

3. We expose them in the workplace, but this involves wisdom and skill. Asking questions, in some cases building a case.

Prov. 9:8, “Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.”

Prov. 9:7, “He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.”

Prov. 15:12, “A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.”

Prov. 19:25, “Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; Rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.”

John 3:20, “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

John 3:21, “But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”

2 Thess. 3:6, “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”

2 Thess. 3:14, “And if anyone does not obey our word in this epistle, note that person and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed.”

Rom. 16:17, “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.”

Rom. 16:18, “For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

2 Tim. 3:2, “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

2 Tim. 3:3, “unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,

2 Tim. 3:4, “traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2 Tim. 3:5, “having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

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