

Eph. 5:8

“WALK IN LIGHT”

The Christian life is never a complicated life. Our Father has seen to it that we have all of the information and knowledge we need to know how to live the life that our Father has designed for us to live.

This commandment of behavior in verse 8 is one such clear statement.

We are:

- Privileged to be children of LIGHT.
- Commanded to walk as children of LIGHT.

That is a simple and understandable statement of affairs.

Those who rebel against such a simple, honest and straight forward command are obviously not “children of light.”

The command is simple - **“Walk as children of light.”**

Some will ask HOW?

LETS EXPLORE THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BY LOOKING AT
THREE REALITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT.

- I - THE CONDITION WHICH ENSLAVED US.
- II - THE CONVERSION WHICH FREED US.
- III - THE PATH WHICH PROTECTS US.

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I - THE CONDITION WHICH ENSLAVED US.

- v. 8 - “You were sometimes darkness.”
- In our natural state we were a sorry lot.

- Theologians talk about the doctrines of THE FALL and ORIGINAL SIN. (Explain)
- The Bible says in Jer. 17:9 that “the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked”
- In Rom. 3:10 - F we are told that “There is nobody that is righteous, no, not one; there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God,...there is none that doeth good.”
- The Bible further described our condition as being “dead in trespasses and sins” and said that in times past we “walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air”... and according to “the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.”

It goes on to say that our previous behavior was “in the lusts of the flesh,” that we fulfilled the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and we were by nature the children of wrath.” (Eph. 2:1-3)

- In Rom. 8:5 the Bible says that “they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh;...”
 - That is why a liar lies, and that is why a drunkard drinks, and a thief steals, and an immoral person thinks immoral thoughts and commits immoral acts.
- In this walk of light we are forced to see

THE CONDITION WHICH ENSLAVED US.

- It was darkness,
 - the opposite of God.
 - “the emblem and region of ignorance and depravity.” (Eadie p. 379)
- And we should come to hate it, to despise it, to reject it, to run from it, to refuse all relationships with it.

Now if that is

THE CONDITION WHICH ENSLAVED US

We need to know ----

II - THE CONVERSION WHICH FREED US

- v. 8 “...but now you are light in the Lord:...”
- This is THE RADICAL DIFFERENCE.
- This is JOY DIVINE.
- This is the line of demarcation over which we pass at conversion.
- The normal Christian life is one that gives thanks.
“unto the Father, who has made us need to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear son:...” (Col. 1:13)
- Why can we not see it - that we are delivered from darkness to light in the Lord.
- There are some today who say that by the grace of God they are free - but their “freedom,” they say, is to do those things which are done by the children of darkness.

What an insult to the Lord of Light !!!

- What is this CONVERSION WHICH FREED US?
- v. 8 - “Now you are light in the Lord.”
- HOW DOES THIS COME TO PASS?
 - I Peter 2:9 tells us to show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
 - But we go further.
 - Col. 1:12-14 gives us more detail
 - (1) The Father has qualified us (“made us meet) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”

-- Col. 1:12 - We are to give “thanks unto the Father, who has made us meet (qualified us) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”

(2) Col. 1:13 - The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness...” (He has delivered us from the mastery which darkness had over us.)

(3) Col. 1:13 - The Father has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. (kingdom = BASILEIA = royal rulership)

(4) Col. 1:14 - The Father has redeemed us through the Blood of His Son.

-- Col. 1:14 - “In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.”

That is how this conversion from Darkness frees us - fully, and finally.

We not only have seen LIGHT, WE ARE LIGHT.

And LIGHT DOES NOT MESS AROUND WITH DARKNESS. LIGHT DEFEATS DARKNESS.

It does not share anything in common with darkness. It separates from it.

It does not share the same room, laugh at the same jokes, pull the same tricks, attend the same parties or walk the same path.

And that leads me to the next thing I need to know about this WALKING IN THE LIGHT. For not only must I reckon with:

I - THE CONDITION WHICH ENSLAVED ME and

II - THE CONVERSION WHICH FREED ME,

I must also reckon with

III - THE PATH WHICH PROTECTS ME

- v. 8 “Walk as children of light.”
- Behave exactly opposite of the children of darkness.
- WHAT IS IT THAT MARKS THE PATH? WHAT KIND OF PATH IS THIS? WHAT IS IT LIKE?

1 - IT IS THE PATH OF DIVINE CHARACTER.

- v. 9 “For the fruit of the light (according to best mss. evidence) is in all:

(1) GOODNESS Now the Bible tells us that - “There is none good but one, that is, God” (Mt. 19:17) Goodness is a God trait.

- And the “fruit of the light” is the fruit of GOODNESS
- There should be no action in a Christian’s life designed contrary to goodness: NO INTENT TO DO HARM BY ACTION, ATTITUDE, BY ABSENCE OF MINISTRY ASSISTANCE, BY GOSSIP, SLANDER, BY ENVY OR JEALOUSY.

(2) RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Here is one of the most distinct of all Divine characters, for apart from God there is none righteous (Rom. 3:10)
- Yet the Path in which we walk - the Path of Light has as its God given protection THE FRUIT WHICH IS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(3) TRUTH “Jesus said “I am the ...truth... (Jn. 14:6)

- He who walks in the light walks in truth

- There is no place for the darkness of a lie in the Walk of LIGHT.

But not only is this Path That Protects us the PATH OF DIVINE CHARACTER, it is also

2 - THE PATH OF DISCERNING JUDGEMENT

- WHAT IS THE PATH OF DISCERNING JUDGEMENT?

- It is the Path in which we PROVE “what is acceptable unto the Lord.” (Read v. 10)

- (Proving = testing)

- Those who walk in the light, those who walk in THE PATH THAT PROTECTS THEM, those who ARE light, have a discerning spirit. They can test things, judge things, they can determine if those things, those ideas - are “acceptable unto the Lord.”

- HOW MAY I FIND THAT PATH?

(1) By Obeying Specific Teaching

- Read and explain vv. 3 - 4

(2) By Observing Obvious Consequences

- Read - v. 5

- (Show the consequences of the conditions described in v. 5.)

- See Mt. 7:13, 16B - 18

- Gal. 6:8 - “He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”

(3) By Finding Faithful Counsel.

- v. 6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words.”
- Ours is a generation that has been lied to. We must find faithful counsel.
- Prov. 1:5 - “A wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:...”
- Prov. 1:8 - “My son, hear the instruction of your father, and forsake not the law of your mother:....”
- Prov. 13:1 - “A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.”
- Prov. 13:20 - “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise.”
- The 1st Psalm is one of the clearest statements in all the Bible with reference to this matter of Finding Faithful Counsel.

Lets look at three things in that Psalm.

i - THERE ARE DANGERS TO AVOID

--v. 1 - “Blessed is the man --

-- “that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly”

-- “nor standeth in the way of sinners”

- “nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful”
 - If we are going to find faithful counsel, we must be certain to avoid the unfaithful.
 - The Apostle Paul said to the Roman Christians that he wanted them to be unlearned, simple, and ignorant, about evil things. Rom. 16:19 “I would have you simple, concerning evil.”
 - Jeremiah spoke this warning, “Take heed every one of his neighbor, and trust not in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will walk with slanders, and they will deceive every one his neighbor, and will not speak the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies....” (Jer. 9:4-5)
 - 2 Cor. 11:3 - “But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the

simplicity (the singleness)
that is in Christ.”

Now in FINDING FAITHFUL
COUNSEL, not only are there DANGERS
TO AVOID, there are also

ii - DELIGHTS TO ENJOY

--Psa. 1:2 - “But his delight is in the law of
the Lord,....”

--The Jews would sing it like this:

“I will delight myself in your
commandments, which I have
loved.” (Psa. 119:47)

“The law of your mouth is better
unto me than thousands of gold
and silver.” (Psa. 119:72)

There are the DELIGHTS TO ENJOY in
our pursuit of faithful counsel.

But not only are there
DANGERS TO AVOID, and
DELIGHTS TO ENJOY,
there are also.

iii. DUTIES TO PERFORM

--Psa. 1:2 - “...in His law he meditates day
and night.”

--(For other duties see 2 Tim. 2:2, Eph.
6:4, Titus 2:3-6)

Now we not only find the Path of Discerning Judgment (v.
10) by

- Obeying Specific Teaching, (v. 3 - 4) and by
- Observing Obvious Consequences, (v. 5) and by
- Finding Faithful Counsel (v. 6)

But also:

(4) By separation from “the children of disobedience.”

- v. 7 “Be not partakers with them.”
 - Who are these with whom we are not to be partakers?
 - i - Deceiving people. (v. 6)
 - ii - Disobedient people. (v. 6)
 - iii - People subject to the wrath of God.
 - v. 6 “...for because of these things cometh the wrath of God...”
 - Prov. 13:20 “A companion of fools shall be destroyed.”

But not only is THE PATH THAT PROTECTS US

- The Path of Divine Character (v. 9)
- and The Path of Discerning Judgment (v. 10), it is also

3 - THE PATH OF DISCIPLINED REBUKE
(The Practice of the Virtue of Intolerance)

- v. 11 “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.”
- (Illustrate this Path of Discerning Judgment, this Practice of Discerning Rebuke, by reading and explaining the following:
 - Deut. 7:1-6
 - I Cor. 5:9-13
 - I Cor. 10:20-21
 - II Cor. 6:14

SUMMARY - There are four things given in a summary reminder to those who desire to walk THE PATH THAT PROTECTS US - (“The Walk of Light.”)

- 1 - WE SHOULD HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SHAME OF THE SECRET THING.
 - v. 12 “It is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.”
- 2 - WE SHOULD HAVE A DESIRE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF THE REBUKED THING.
 - v. 13 - “All things that are reprovved are made manifest by the light.” (That is the responsibility of light - to reveal the things that are to be rebuked, the things that are dangerous for us.)
 - Light embarrasses darkness. It defeats it. That is what light is supposed to do.

That is why men whose deeds are evil love darkness. (Jn. 3:19)
 - (1) Our Path is Protected by the “lamp unto our feet.” This is the light which reveals and reprovves the danger that is before us.
 - That is why the Bible says of the Word of God, “Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, a light unto my path.” (Psa. 119:105)
 - This Word, this Word of God, is the great Protective Scrutinizer of my path.

(2) Our Path is Protected by the ability of the eyes of God.

-- Prov. 15:3 “the eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

-- That truth is one of our greatest promises. We walk with the one who does not miss a thing. His eyes are in every place - beholding the evil and the good.

That is the scrutiny we need in order to manifest the things which should be rebuked.

I long to have such scrutiny accompany me along the path of life.

It would be a frightening thing to walk through this human jungle without One who could see every evil and every good and without One who is able and willing to tell us the difference between the good and the evil.

-- Men and women, boys and girls, who are serious about walking the Path that Protects us, will happily and eagerly pray:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psa. 139:23-24)

-- It is a dark night through which to walk without light.

The darkness of the present day conceals from our view the dangers of this sin-ridden, disease infested, mentally perverted, drug inflicted, pastorally compromised, family wounded, suicidal prone, divorce deceived society.

DON'T WALK THROUGH THAT DARKNESS ON ANY PATH NOT PROTECTED BY THE SHINING LIGHT AND THE SEEING EYE OF GOD.

But not only should we have

- AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SHAME OF THE SECRET THING,
- and A DESIRE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF THE REBUKED THING.

3 - WE SHOULD HAVE A PROPER RESPONSE TO THE SUMMONS OF THE RESPONSIBLE THING

- v. 14 “Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead.”
- I THES. 5:5-8 - “Ye are all sons of light, and sons of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober-minded. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that are drunk are drunk in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and, for an helmet, the hope of salvation.”
- Sleep, darkness, and drunkenness are totally and always inappropriate for the children of light, the children of the day, and the children of sobriety.
- v. 14 is a wake up call if we are to walk the path that protects us.
- There are at least three other particulars we should know about his SUMMONS TO THE RESPONSIBLE THING:
 - (1) We do not know that we are asleep until we wake up.
 - (2) While sleeping, we cannot tell the difference between dreams and reality.
 - (3) While sleeping alarms are unpleasant.

Now In This Path That Protects Us, do not Only Should We Have

- 1 - AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SHAME OF THE SECRET THING, and - (v. 12)
 - 2 - A DESIRE FOR THE SCRUTINY OF THE REBUKED THING, and (v. 13)
 - 3 - A PROPER RESPONSE TO THE SUMMONS OF THE RESPONSIBLE THING, but there should also be
- 4 - A RECEIVING FROM THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNIFICANT THING.
- v. 14 "Christ shall give you light."
 - 2 Cor. 4:6 - "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

AND THAT IS THE WALK OF LIGHT

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