

Living as Children of Light - Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

Topics:

Anger, Believers, Children, Darkness, Forgiveness, God, Hardheartedness, Help, Holiness, Holy Spirit, Ignorance, Immorality, Jesus Christ, Kindness, Light, Love, Lust, Lying, Nature, Needs, Righteousness, Separation, Sin, Submission, Wisdom

Open It Questions

1. Do you prefer wearing old, comfortable clothing or dressy outfits? Why?

2. How do you feel when you wear a brand-new suit or outfit?

3. What do you do with your worn-out clothing?

Explore It Questions

4. In what way were Ephesian believers instructed not to live as Gentiles? (4:17-19)

5. How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? (4:20-21)

6. In what way does God want Christians to change? (4:22-24)

7. How should new Christians stop living? (4:22)

8. How should new Christians begin living? (4:23-24)

9. What should we keep in mind concerning lying, anger, and stealing? (4:25-28)

10. How should believers speak to one another? (4:29)

11. How can the Holy Spirit be hurt? (4:29-30)

12. Of what five vices are believers to rid themselves? (4:31)

13. What positive commands did Paul give the Ephesians?
(4:32)

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

14. How are Christians to imitate God? (5:1-2)

15. From what practices should Christians abstain? (5:3-6)

16. Whom do we need to avoid? Why? (5:5-7)

17. Why should Christians not become partners with non-Christians? (5:7-8)

18. How does life in darkness contrast with life in the light? (5:9-20)

19. How should Spirit-controlled believers relate to one another? (5:21)

Get It Questions

20. Since becoming a Christian, what old habits have you discarded?

21. Of what aspects of your old nature do you still need to rid yourself?

22. How do you see the new nature taking hold in your life?

23. What evidence do you see that your life is controlled by the Holy Spirit?

24. What fruit of the light do you see in your life?

25. In what way should you be submissive to other Christians?

26. How would you rate your spiritual wardrobe: basic, adequate, or overflowing?

27. What aspect of your Christian life do you want to practice more consistently?

Apply It Questions

28. What would be the first step for you in changing an old pattern of behavior?

29. What can you do this week to make your Christian living more consistent?

30. How can you relate to others today in new, joyful ways?

Adult Questions for LESSON Maker.

Letter to the Ephesians

New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
Southfield, MI 48033

Facilitators

Dr. David L. Roberson, Pastor
Rev. Valerie L. Crump, MAPT/CF/CBC
Special Assistant to the Pastor

**Living as Children
of Light
Ephesians 4:17-32
and 5:1-21**



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21 ~ Topics

- Anger
- Believers
- Children
- Darkness
- Forgiveness
- God
- Hardheartedness
- Help
- Holiness
- Holy Spirit
- Ignorance
- Immorality
- Jesus Christ
- Kindness
- Light
- Love
- Lust
- Lying
- Nature
- Needs
- Righteousness
- Separation
- Sin
- Submission
- Wisdom



Living as Children of Light
Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21 ~ Topics

Open It Questions³



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

1. Do you prefer wearing old, comfortable clothing or dressy outfits? Why?



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21


2. How do you feel when you wear a brand-new suit or outfit?



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21


3. What do you do with your worn-out clothing?



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

INTRODUCTION



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21


- ❑ People should be able to see a difference between Christians and non-Christians because of the way Christians live.
- ❑ The section from [4:17-24](#) appeals to believers to leave behind the old life of sin because they are followers of Christ—which should result in a radical change in their behavior.



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21


- ❑ This change is further detailed in the section from [4:25-32](#), which lists negative characteristics that have no place in the church and positive characteristics that will reflect Christ's character.
- ❑ Living the Christian life is a process. Although we have a new nature, we don't automatically think all good thoughts and express all right attitudes.



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

- ❑ But, if we keep listening to God, we will be changing all the time.
- ❑ We must trust God to change us on the inside—our character, values, attitudes, perspective, and motives.



Living as Children of Light
Ephesians 4:17-32 and 5:1-21

Explore It Questions



Ephesians 4:17-19

Avoid Living Like Unbelievers

4. In what way were Ephesian believers instructed not to live as Gentiles?
([4:17-19](#))



Ephesians 4:17-19

Avoid Living Like Unbelievers

¹⁷ This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of *their* mind,

¹⁸ having *their* understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in *them*, because of the blindness of *their* heart;

¹⁹ who, being past feeling, have given *themselves* over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

(4:17-19 NKJV)



Ephesians 4:20-21

Comparing Christians to Gentiles

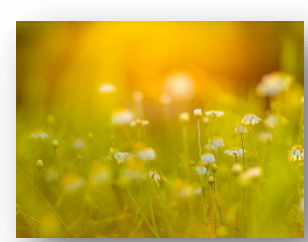
5. How did Paul contrast the Ephesian Christians with the Gentiles? ([4:20-21](#))



Ephesians 4:20-21

Comparing Christians to Gentiles

“²⁰ But *you* have not so learned Christ,
²¹ if indeed *you* have heard Him and have
been taught by Him, as the truth is in
Jesus:...” (4:20-21 NKJV).



Ephesians 4:22-24

God Wants Christians to Change

6. In what way does God want Christians to change? ([4:22-24](#))



Ephesians 4:22-24

God Wants Christians to Change

²² that *you* put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,

²³ and be renewed in the spirit of *your* mind,

²⁴ and that *you* put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. **(4:22-24 NKJV)**



Ephesians 4:22

Stop Living the Old Life

7. How should new Christians stop living? ([4:22](#))



Ephesians 4:22

Stop Living the Old Life

“...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,...” (4:22 NKJV)



Ephesians 4:23-24

Start Living the New Life

8. How should new Christians begin living? ([4:23-24](#))



Ephesians 4:23-24

Start Living the New Life

23 “...and be renewed in the spirit of your mind,...

24 “...and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.” (4:23-24 NKJV)



Ephesians 4:25-28

Avoid Grieving the Spirit

9. What should we keep in mind concerning lying, anger, and stealing? ([4:25-28](#))



Ephesians 4:25-28

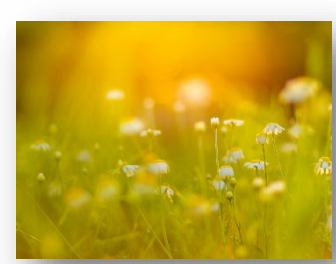
Avoid Grieving the Spirit

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another.

²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

²⁷ nor give place to the devil.

²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. **(4:25-28 NKJV)**



Believers' Conversation

Ephesians 4:29

10. How should believers speak to one another? ([4:29](#))



Believers' Conversation

Ephesians 4:29

“Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (4:29 NKJV).



What Hurts the Spirit?

Ephesians 4:29-30

11. How can the Holy Spirit be hurt?
([4:29-30](#))



What Hurts the Spirit

Ephesians 4:29-30

²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **(4:29-30 NKJV)**



Get Rid of Vices

Ephesians 4:31

12. Of what five vices are believers to rid themselves? ([4:31](#))



Get Rid of Vices

Ephesians 4:31

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor [shouting, screaming, yelling, or screeching], and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice” (4:31 NKJV).



Paul's Positive Commands

Ephesians 4:32

13. What positive commands did Paul give the Ephesians? ([4:32](#))



Paul's Positive Commands

Ephesians 4:32

“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you” (4:32 NKJV).



Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitating God

14. How are Christians to imitate God? ([5:1-2](#))



Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitating God

“¹Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

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

(5:1-2 NKJV).



Ephesians 5:3-4

Practices to Give Up

15. From what practices should Christians abstain [or give up]? (5:3-4)



Ephesians 5:3-4

Practices to Give Up

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

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

(5:3-4 NKJV).



Ephesians 5:5-7

Avoid These

16. Whom do we need to avoid?
Why? ([5:5-7](#))



Ephesians 5:5-7

Avoid These

⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶ Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

(5:5-7 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:7-8

Do Not Partner with Non-Christians

17. Why should Christians not become partners with non-Christians? ([5:7-8](#))



Ephesians 5:7-8

Do Not Partner with Non-Christians

“⁷ Be not ye therefore partakers with them.
⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:...” (5:7-8 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:9-20

Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

18. How does life in darkness contrast with life in the light? ([5:9-20](#))



Ephesians 5:9-11

Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

“⁹...(for the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness, righteousness, and truth),”

“¹⁰...finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.”

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

(5:9-11 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:12-13

Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

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

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

(5:12-13 NKJV).



Ephesians 5:14-16

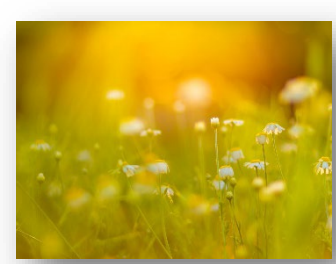
Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

¹⁴ Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,

¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

(5:14-16 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:17-18

Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

“¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. ”

“¹⁸And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”

(5:17-18 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:19-20



Life in Darkness vs. Life in the Light

“19...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,”

“20...giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,...”

(5:19-20 NKJV)



Ephesians 5:21

Spirit-Controlled Believers

Relationships

19. How should Spirit-controlled believers relate to one another?
([5:21](#))



Ephesians 5:21

Spirit-Controlled Believers' Relationships

“...submitting to one another in the fear of God” (5:21 NKJV).



Living as Children of Light

Ephesians 5:1-21

Get It and Apply It Questions

Questions 20-30

(See Participant Handout)



Next Week's Lesson

**Spirit-Guided Relationships:
Wives and Husbands**

Ephesians 5:22-33