

Ephesians 5:1-14. *Stop Sleeping—Enjoy His Shining on You*. Since the Christ loved and forgave you as dearly loved children, be imitators [μιμηταί, a la “mimic,”³⁴⁰²] of God. You mimic the Lord God by living a life of unconditional & zealous love, the very unconditionally zealous love Christ showed when He gave Himself up as fragrant offering, and as a sacrifice as it were to Father God.

- Q What aspects of the Lord God do you have the most trouble mimicking?
Q Why did the Christ become an atoning sacrifice to Father God?¹²

BUT... Among you as God’s holy, set aside people? There must be no impurity, nor greed, nor even a hint of sexual immorality. Obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking will be out of place. Live a life of gratitude.

- Q Why do all these things get in the way of living a life worthy of our Creator? Living a life consumed by thanksgiving?
Q What do you consider coarse joking? Obscenity? Greed? Foolish talking?
Q Why is greed considered idolatrous?

Remember this—no immoral, impure or greedy dude or dudette (idolaters in other words) have any inheritance in the kingdom. Let no one tell you otherwise, the Lord’s wrath comes down on those who do not listen—do not be partners with knuckleheads who tell you otherwise.

- Q What “empty words” are used to convince people that immorality, impurity and greed do not affect your inheritance in the Kingdom? Who are examples of this purveyance (the ones we’re to avoid)?

¹²It is not about us. Paul wrote in Romans 3:25-26: “[Father] God presented him [the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth] as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished—²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.”

EPHESIANS 5:1-14

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. ⁴Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.

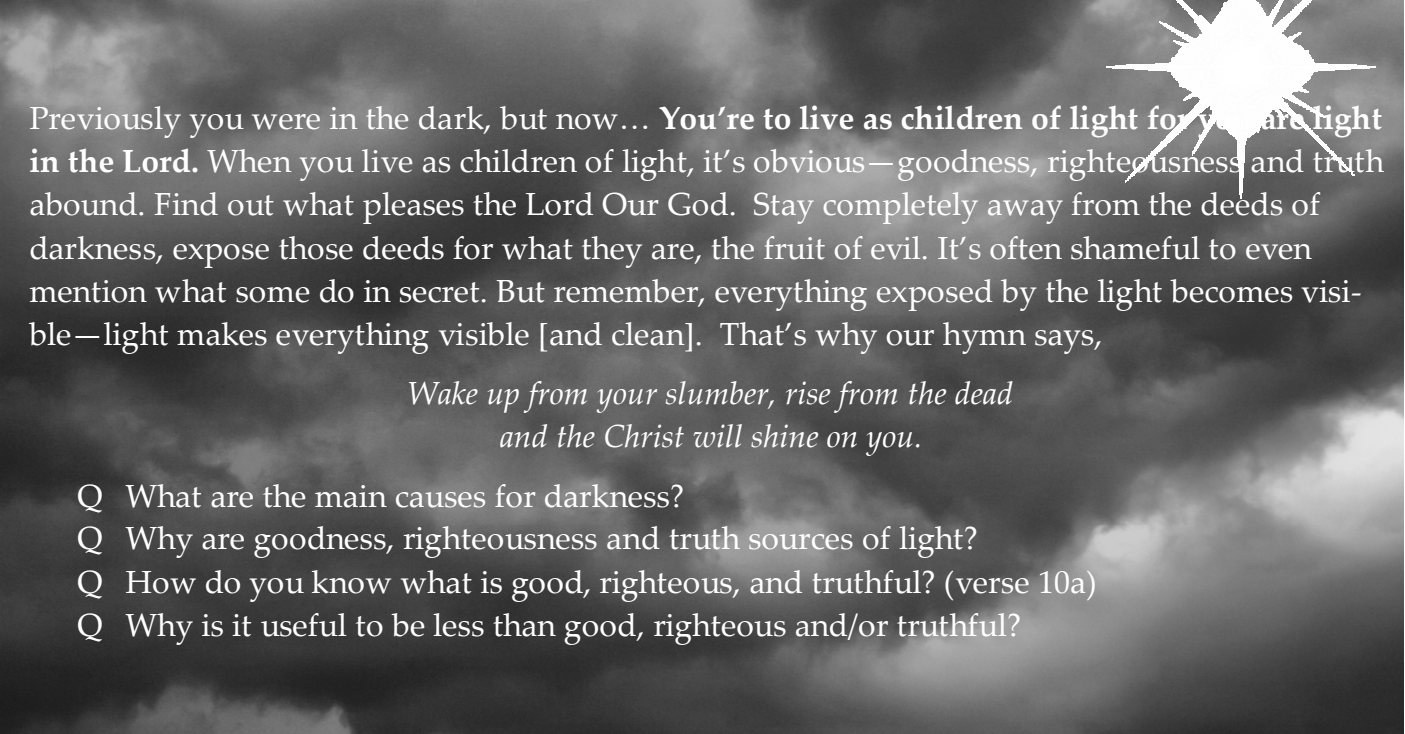
⁵For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God [or *the kingdom of the Christ and God*]. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord.

¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

- Q Why is it useful to believe that nothing can affect our inheritance?
- Q Why does the Lord God exact His wrath on the immoral, greedy, impure?



Previously you were in the dark, but now... **You're to live as children of light for you are light in the Lord.** When you live as children of light, it's obvious—goodness, righteousness and truth abound. Find out what pleases the Lord Our God. Stay completely away from the deeds of darkness, expose those deeds for what they are, the fruit of evil. It's often shameful to even mention what some do in secret. But remember, everything exposed by the light becomes visible—light makes everything visible [and clean]. That's why our hymn says,

*Wake up from your slumber, rise from the dead
and the Christ will shine on you.*

- Q What are the main causes for darkness?
- Q Why are goodness, righteousness and truth sources of light?
- Q How do you know what is good, righteous, and truthful? (verse 10a)
- Q Why is it useful to be less than good, righteous and/or truthful?