

EPHESIANS

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



THE GIFT OF DISCOMFORT

EPHESIANS 5:3-14

PART OF SOMETHING BIG



One of the greatest expressions of the love of God is that He shines His light in our darkness. It's an amazing gift, but often doesn't feel like it.

Ephesians 5:3-14

³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them;

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⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The World is Full of Darkness

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 - The porn industry's annual revenue is more than the NFL, NBA, and MLB combined
 - "Filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking"
 - 60% of people who left their last church was due to gossip destroying personal connections

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- The Allure of Darkness

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- **The Allure of Darkness**
 - **Short term enjoyment (at the cost of long-term joy)**

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 - Short term enjoyment at the cost of long-term joy
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 - **Protect our self-image at all cost**

The World is Full of Darkness

- A heavy warning of remaining in darkness

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- **A heavy warning of remaining in darkness**
 - No inheritance of the kingdom of God

Ephesians 1:11-14

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

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 - A big difference: "Is" vs "Process of putting off old self"

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 - No inheritance of the kingdom of God
 - A big difference: "Is" vs "Process of putting off old self"
 - Don't be deceived by the message of darkness
 - "Sin is just not that big of a deal to God"
 - "You can't share that; everyone will know who you really are"

Be Increasingly Grateful for the Gift of His Light

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- **A key marker of those who treasure Jesus**
 - **Understand the weight, consequence, and prevalence of their own darkness**
 - **Cling to Jesus' light as their hope, freedom, and joy**

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- **A key marker of those who treasure Jesus**
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- **2 stories of those who love the light of Jesus**

Luke 7:41-47

⁴¹ “A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³ Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.”

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

⁹ But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Reflect the Light to the Darkness Around Us.

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- **What does the light of Christ look like for us?**
 - **Own our darkness – past and present**

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Reflect the Light to the Darkness Around Us.

- **What does the light of Christ look like for us?**
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 - What is pleasing to the Lord is now what is pleasing to me
 - **Gently, lovingly shine our light in the darkness around us**

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The Light Experience

**Experience more
powerfully the
love of his light**

**Be transformed by the
power his light**

**Be the kind of
light that you
experienced in
Christ**



Two Simple Prayers for our Week

Lord, graciously shine your light in our darkness. May we be increasingly grateful for this expression of love from you.

Lord, use the light you filled our life with in the darkness around us, that others may know the depth of your love for them.

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