

LOVE AND LIGHT

Ephesians 5:1-14

- I. **LOVE** (1-2; 1 Jn 4:7-12)
- A. **God is Love.** (1 Jn 4:8, 16)
- B. **We are God's Beloved Children.** (1 Jn 3:1 & 4:7)—Imitate Him.
1. **Recipients of God's Love** —We have been loved, so we know how.
 2. **Family Resemblance**—families have a look and feel about them
- C. **Live a Life of Love.**—walk like Jesus
1. **Different Types of Love**—categories—*What kind of love is it?*
 2. **Appropriate and Inappropriate Love** (1 Jn 2:15; Ps 78:58; Hos 4:18; Ezek 23;7)—morality; some “loves” are *disordered*
 3. **God's Love**—faithful loving-kindness; committed to doing what right and best for the one who is loved, even at great cost to self
 4. **Christ's Example**—gave Himself up for us (self-sacrifice)
 - a. **Fragrant Offering** ()—
 - b. **Sacrifice to God** (Rom 12:1)—God is the object of our worship
- II. **NOT LOVE** (3-5)—what is appropriate behavior for God's children
- A. **Inappropriate**—not even a hint
1. **Sexual Immorality and Impurity**—unrestrained sexual behavior (external actions)
 2. **Covetousness**—inward insatiable greed for selfish gratification (internal attitude, matter of the heart)
 3. **Indecent Talk**—obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking about sex; (verbal expression of what is in the heart)
- B. **Instead Thanksgiving** (Col 3:17)
1. **Attitude of Gratitude** rather than Greed
 2. **Focus on God** rather than Self
 3. **Gracious Conversation**—honorable, appropriate, considerate, appreciative—not vulgar, degrading, suggestive, inciting lust

III. **REALITY CHECK** (5-7)A. **Consequences of Sin**—(Rev 22:15)

1. **No Inheritance in Christ's Kingdom**—no reward, no eternal life, not part of Christ's kingdom (impostors)
2. **God's Wrath upon the Wicked**—judgment, punishment, destruction—

B. **Denial of Judgment** (Dan 11:32; 2 Thes 2:9-12; 2 Pet 3:3-7; Jude 1:5-7)

1. **Deception**—*warned* of false prophets and false teachers
2. **Empty Words**—insincere, aren't true, shouldn't be trusted

IV. **LIGHT** (8-14)—openness, transparency, nothing to hideA. **Children of Light** (Jam 1:17; 1 Jn 1:5)—identity, essence, characterB. **Fruit of Light** (9-10)

1. **Goodness**—can imply generosity, being good to others
2. **Righteousness**—justice, integrity
3. **Truth**—not lies or false reality

C. **Works of Darkness** (12;)—ignorance, error, evil

1. **Unfruitful**—don't produce what you hope for; not beneficial
2. **Secret**—Darkness hides evil
3. **Shameful**—victim not shameful—abuser is!

D. **Power of Light** (13-14; Jn 3:19)—deeds of darkness fear the light of exposure

1. **Reveals** —shows what is there.
2. **Cleanses**—makes atmosphere inhospitable to deeds of darkness

E. **Duty of Light** (11; Mat 5:14-16)—how to live as children of light

1. **Do not participate.** ()—do not be partners with them
2. **Expose them.** ()—***This requires COURAGE!***
“Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act.” (D. Bonhoeffer)