

“Living In The Light”
Ephesians 5:1-14
Sermon Series: “The Walk”

Introduction: "Nasifaz," an Afghan woman, explained to Chicago Tribune foreign correspondent Liz Sly the reason some Afghan women continue to wear burqas, the full-body coverings mandated by the Taliban, even though they don't like them and are no longer forced to wear them:

"We have lived in darkness for so long that now we are afraid of the light." Thankfully, we do not have to stay in the darkness because Jesus, the Light of the world, came to change us from darkness to light. There is darkness around us, but there is also darkness within us. We need to supernaturally be brought into the light.

Main Idea: Jesus transforms us from darkness to light so we are to live as children of light.

Metaphor of Light and Darkness in Scriptures:

1. Jesus is the Light of the world (John 1:1-9)
2. Light is a picture of salvation while darkness is a picture of spiritual blindness (2 Corinthians 4:1-6).
3. Light is a picture of holiness while darkness is a picture of sin (1 John 1:5-7, John 3:17-19).
4. Light is a picture of truth and revelation while darkness is a picture of lies and hiding (John 3:20-21).

5. Light and darkness are in an ongoing battle that light ultimately wins (John 1:5).

How do we live as children of light?

1. We can live as children of the light by understanding and living out of our new identity (v. 8). We were darkness, but now we are light. We have to see ourselves this way to live this way.

2. We can live as children of the light by repenting of our old sinful ways (v. 7, 11). The Christian life is a life of ongoing repentance. We are to put off the works of darkness and put on the works of light like goodness, righteousness, and truth (v. 10).

3. We can live as children of the light by seeking to determine and do the will of the Lord in any particular situation (v. 10). A. Skevington Wood writes, “The verb [“finding out”] has to do with the testing of metals and so can mean to discover by examination, verify, or approve.” It means that we are seeking to please the Lord by determining His will and doing it. In other words, we are living as children of light when we do the right thing, the obedient thing, instead of the wrong thing.

4. We can live as children of the light by exposing sin instead of participating in sin (v. 11-13, Galatians 6:1). We are not to have fellowship with the works (not the people) of darkness. Instead, we are commanded to expose them. This is referring to pointing out sin to our brothers and sisters in Christ with the goal of repentance and restoration. This would involve us taking the splinter out of our eyes before we try to remove the log from someone else's eye.

Conclusion: Wake up and walk in the light.