



9/15/25

I love what was said in the message about the relationship between science and the Lord... "Science explains how God maintains nature, but science does not explain His miracle in creating nature. Don't steal God's miracles." I also have to say... I take the challenge of looking at the beauty of creation and seeing God's creativity in the miracle, but I'm one of those people who has to look at my neighbor's flowers. I'm a TERRIBLE gardener. But I do appreciate seeing it in other people's yards. Hahaha.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 5:1-14

"And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:3). "In Him (Jesus) was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." And His light "has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). God brought the light into the world as a representation of who He is. Without light, life will not be sustained. Without the light of Jesus shining in my heart, my life will not be sustained. But praise God, His light does shine in my heart... He sustains me in His goodness... and I have eternal life with Him.

How does God want me to respond to Him as my light?

Vs. 1 ~ Therefore, in light of the fact that Jesus is kind, tenderhearted, gracious, and merciful toward me, imitate God. The Greek word for imitate is the same word from which we get the word "mimic". Mimic God. Follow the example of Jesus who is the exact imprint of God the Father.

Why should I do this? Out of fear? No... Security is my motivation. Imitate God because I am His beloved child. He loves me. He has adopted me. I am secure in Him. This is all about wanting

to be like my loving, kind, tenderhearted Dad.

Vs. 2 ~ Walk in love... agape love... divine, sacrificial, unconditional love... because that's how I am loved by God. To be like Him is to love like that. Jesus is my example. He loved me sacrificially and unconditionally when He sacrificed His life for my soul.

Jesus sacrificed Himself and offered Himself to the Father on my behalf. The Father received His sacrifice as a sweet smelling offering. The Father was pleased with the offering of His Son because it was done in love for Him and for me. 1 Corinthians 13:3 says that a sacrifice done without love means nothing. But Jesus' loving sacrifice meant everything.

Vs. 3-6 ~ What is NOT done in sacrificial, unconditional love? Sexual immorality, impurity, covetousness (which is idolatry... putting anything as higher priority than the Lord), filthiness, foolish talk, crude joking. These things do not pursue unity, kindness, or grace. They are not done in love, but in selfishness... in judgment... in seeking to promote self.

The followers of God, the saints, His beloved children, aren't called to do those things. They don't imitate God's nature or heart. They don't show His love. Certainly, Jesus never modeled this kind of behavior. He died for those who do these things. He knows that people who make these things their practice don't really know Him, and they will have no inheritance with Him. They will be separated from Him and all His goodness for all eternity. They will experience the wrath of God... rightfully. He's the King. He's in charge. This is why I can spend my time being thankful. The wrath of God that would have been rightfully poured out on me, He poured out on His innocent Son! I did nothing to deserve His kind, tenderhearted forgiveness of my debt. I only received it in faith. That's the only difference between me and those who reject Jesus. It's all about where we place our trust. I trust Jesus.

So don't model myself after those who deny Jesus. Model myself after Jesus. Replace all the things that go against God with things that please God... in gratitude. I could not save myself. He saved me. A heart of gratitude will seek to be like the one who gave her the reason to be grateful. Jesus is my reason.

Vs. 7-10 ~ Therefore, because the wrath of God WILL come upon those who are deceived and refuse to confess Jesus as Lord, not only should I not do what the unbelievers do... I should also not participate WITH them. I WAS once one of them... walking in the darkness. But because of Jesus, I am now light in the Lord. I am a child of light. To be God's beloved child is absolutely to be a child of light because that's who He is.

Well, how will I know if I'm walking in the light? The fruit of my walk will result in everything that is good and right and true, and it will be pleasing to the Lord. How do I know what's good and right and true? "Every good gift and every perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of LIGHTS, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:16-17). If it's from God, it's good and right and true. If it's not from God, it's not good and right and true... ever.

If I'm walking in love and walking in the light, my goal will be to please the Lord. I will be seeking to know and understand what pleases Him, and then I'll act on what I seek and know. My good God will not leave me to figure it out on my own. As I seek Him, He will shine His light in my heart to help me understand what pleases Him, and the Holy Spirit will give me the strength to do it.

Vs. 11-14 ~ How do I walk as a child of light? I seek to discern what pleases the Lord and NOT what pleases SELF. The things that please SELF bear no good and right and true fruit. They only bear the fruit of darkness. I must take NO part in works that bear no good fruit.

What should I do if I'm not going to partner with those who do partake in the unfruitful works of darkness? Don't fellowship with the darkness. Expose the darkness. Ohhhh... so I'm supposed to go around and call everyone out and tell them how messed up they are. NO. "For it is shameful even to SPEAK of the things that they do in secret." Well, if I'm not supposed to point out how everyone is wrong for their evil deeds, how do I expose the darkness? I live in the light.

When I'm living in the light as a genuine follower of Jesus Christ, seeking to do the good and right and true things that please Him, my life will automatically expose the darkness. My life will bring to light the things hidden in darkness... not so that I can feel superior to unbelievers, but so that they might "awake and arise from the dead, so that Christ will shine on them as He has shone His light on me."

This is really important for me to understand... This is talking about how I, a believer who now walks in the light of the Lord, need to treat unbelievers who walk in darkness. I can't expect those who don't know Jesus to act like a follower of Jesus. They don't have the Holy Spirit sealing them and transforming them to be like Jesus. Other scripture talks about how I should speak the truth in love and help restore believers who are caught in sin. But this passage is talking about walking in love and being a light to those who don't know Jesus. What will draw those in the darkness to relationship with Jesus is not judging them for their unrighteousness, but being a genuine follower of Jesus, so that the light of Jesus splashes on them in kindness and respect... so that they might turn to Him and experience the same mercy He has extended to me.

As I walk in love, because I am loved... as I walk in light, because Jesus has shone His light in me... as I seek to please God... I pray that my light will so shine that others will respond to Jesus and heaven will be very crowded with all the saints in light... believers in Jesus Christ.

God said, "Let there be light." May His light shine in and through me. His light is here in order to give life. He has a purpose in shining His light on me. Now I have a purpose to reflect His light to the world. May it be so.