

2. Walking in Light

Intro

➤ *Unfortunate pilot*

- It's so easy to do life at a fast pace, not really paying attention to where you are heading.
- Darkness brings disorientation and distortion.
- Light brings exposure. It shows things for what they really are.
- There is something in us that doesn't want to see or to be seen. We'd rather not pay attention. And we hope people aren't paying attention to us—at least the real us.

Ephesians 5:1-14

“Walk as Children of Light”

Aligning with the Light

- To be God's children is to feel comfortable in the light.

“This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5-7)

Darkness is a Reality

- There are personal, spiritual forces of darkness.

➤ *Joe, medieval traveler in an enchanted world*

- There can be a *partnership* with darkness. We don't just do individual, discrete acts. We are either aligning ourselves with the light or moving into the darkness.

The Good, The Beautiful, The True

"for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true" (Eph. 5:9)

➤ *The "Transcendentals"*

- Your value system, pursuits, the things that you do when no one is looking, what you embrace and laugh at and enjoy—do they have to do with things that are *good, beautiful, and true*?
- There are counterfeits / distortions that lurk in the darkness:

"When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food [the good], and pleasing to the eye [the beautiful], and was also desirable for gaining wisdom [the true], she took some and ate it." (Gen. 3:6)

Sexual immorality, impurity: Distorts the Beautiful

- Real intimacy comes from *walking in the light*. From being fully known and feeling secure. It comes from *commitment*.

Covetousness: Distorts the True

- Living in your own fiction, your own dream world...
- The restless wanderer: Cravings beyond your boundaries...

"The desire for porn is a desire to escape from what the Lord has given you into a fake universe full of things you do not have and will never have. Porn is the trading of gratitude for greed. Porn trades joy in the reality God has graced you with for greed in the counterfeit world he has not. ...This is the vicious cycle of lust. Lust never has what it wants because it never has enough. Lust steals joy by creating an endless state of discontentment in the constant search for that one next thing you don't have yet. Lust is never happy because lust is never full."

-Heath Lambert, *Finally Free: Fighting for Purity with the Power of Grace*, 127, 130

Filthiness / Crude joking: Distorts the Good

- Treating significant and morally destructive things like they're a big joke.
- These practices tend to surface at night. They love darkness and secrecy.

"Let us walk properly as in the daytime" (Rom. 13:13)

- *Everything* will get exposed one day.

"Put Away All Falsehood"

"Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another." (Eph. 4:25)

Speak the Truth

"While falsehood was characteristic of the old life (4:25), truth, integrity, and reality are the marks of disciples of Christ the Truth (John 14:6). Pretense and hypocrisy have no place in the new community of grace." –**Sinclair Ferguson**, *Let's Study Ephesians*, 113

Lies

- Lying belongs to the kingdom of darkness. We renounce the devil, the father of lies.
- Do not become comfortable with lies!

Half-truths / Withheld Information

Exaggerations / Manipulation / Flattery

- Trying to get something from people through the tool of distorting the truth...

"But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to walk in cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Corinthians 4:2)

Cheating

*“Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands...”
(Eph. 4:28)*

An Honest Life

- Integrity—there’s only one you.
- Invite disclosure....

“It might be cool for a teen’s parents not to know the password on his computer or the passcode for his phone, but it’s certainly not wise. That’s because, ‘Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered’ (Proverbs 28:26). So a mature teen shares his temptations, conversations, and viewpoints with his parents without having to be pried open. He doesn’t seek to isolate himself, but pursues the eyes and input of those who care about his soul. He regularly opens the door to his heart before his parents even ring the bell.” –**Bob Kauflin**, “When Is My Child Mature Enough to Leave Home?” *DesiringGod Blog*

- Walking in the light also means honesty about who you are. Not putting on a front or performing a show. Not managing to display some version of “you.”
 - “*Persona*”
 - Masks in *Infinite Jest* by David Foster Wallace

“People increasingly prefer online interaction to fact-to-face. We can display a version of ourselves that, if not better looking, may be more witty, smart, generous, or compassionate.”
–**Mike Cosper**, *Recapturing the Wonder: Transcendent Faith in a Disenchanted World*, 38

- We would rather *show* that we’ve had a certain experience than actually do the work to experience it.
- There is no *persona* in solitude. You bring the real you: with your doubts and sin and contradictions and confusion... There is no more honest moment than between you and God.

“There need to be aspects of our spiritual life that are kept intimate and private, between us and God alone.”
–**Mike Cosper**, *Recapturing the Wonder: Transcendent Faith in a Disenchanted World*, 80

Changing the Heel-Grabber's Walk

Genesis 32