

LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS!

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Inside Out
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We are called to be light in a dark world!



SERMON SUMMARY

This week we are concluding our series called Inside Out. The goal of this series has been to encourage and challenge each of us to let God make us more like Jesus! Unfortunately, there are obstacles or challenges that may hinder or slow down our transformation. One of those challenges is that we live in a spiritually dark world that seems opposed to Christianity. It can be hard to figure out how we are to interact with, and live in a world like that. Thankfully Paul gives us some insight into how to handle this challenge using the images of darkness and light. First, we need to recognize that we have been transformed from darkness to light. As children of light we are called to learn to please God, separate ourselves from the darkness, and expose the darkness to God's glorious light. Let's ask God for wisdom as we endeavour to do this well!

- In Ephesians, Paul is writing to a congregation that was learning what it means to follow Jesus in a world which was not upholding Godly values.
 - Why is this contrast of darkness and light so helpful for those who may be learning to live according to the Godly standards? How can we lovingly help new believers who may struggle to understand the purity God calls us to?
 - One of the realities that Paul expresses here is that we were darkness, and now we are light (see Acts 26:18, Rom. 13:12, 2 Cor. 4:6, Col. 1:13, 1 Thess. 5:5, 1 Pet. 2:9). This is suggesting a spiritual transformation, not just a change of location or our social sphere. Why is this difference important to note? Is it possible to be around the light and not be the light? How can we make sure this isn't our reality?
- As Paul talks about living as children of light, he highlights several important realities that will help us be light in the darkness.
 - First, Paul says we are to find out what pleases God. What does it mean to please God? What are some scriptures that outline what this looks like? (consider Romans 12:1-2; Matt. 22:34-40)
 - Paul then says we are to have nothing to do with the deeds of darkness. What are deeds of darkness? How can we live in the world, and still be separate from it? (see John 17:15, 2 Cor. 6:14, 2 Tim. 3:1-5)
 - The third challenge Paul gives is to expose the deeds of darkness. What does this look like? What is our motive to be? How can we do this with a heart of love for the lost? (consider Matt. 5:13-16)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

This week, pay attention to the world around you. How are you interacting with the darkness? Is the darkness influencing you, or are you chasing away the darkness by being the light? Ask God for wisdom to help you be a light that points people to Jesus.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION & READING REFLECTIONS

Sunday: 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14-17 (Navigating Difficult Times)
Monday: Romans 12:1-2 (Do Not Be Conformed)
Tuesday: 1 John 2:15-17 (Love Not the World)
Wednesday: Daniel 1:1-21 (Faithfulness in a Foreign Culture)
Thursday: John 17:13-19 (In the World, Not of It)
Friday: Matthew 5:13-16 (Called to be Salt and Light)
Saturday: Philippians 2:12-16 (Shining Like Stars)