

Ephesians 5:3-21

My engineering master thesis is on fiber optic design. It covers the study on various effective ways to design a fiber for usage in communication. If a fiber is darkened by radiation or crack, the efficiency is degraded. Fiber optic is also very popular for lighting. I am very impressed on different kind of genius fiber optic lights. This type of lighting is creative and beautiful. The fiber is an in-between media that brings the light from the light source to the end of the fiber to emit light. If a fiber has defect like has been darkened (became impure) or has cracks, the light is not able to go through as intended. I see myself as one of the fibers in a fiber optic light which God is the light source. This observation of mine can be understood by studying Chapter 5 of Ephesians.

Book of Ephesians is one of Paul's letters in the New Testament. He wrote this letter during his first imprisonment in Rome. Paul first came to Ephesus for a short visit close to the end of his second missionary journey, and again there for about 3 years in his third missionary journey. He wrote this letter mainly for Christians in Ephesus and nearby areas. It contains the basic Christian belief such as our riches in Christ and our responsibilities in Christ. Today, we're going study Christians as children of Light.

1) Children of light

Now let's read Eph. 5:3-21 and Matt. 5:14-16.

a) Darkness is not children of light

Eph. 5:3-5 list some of the actions that do not belongs to the children of Light. These actions include immorality, any kind of impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking, etc.

b) Children of light

Some of the characters of children of light are they are not deceived by empty words, not partner with those disobedient to God, and have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness.

For we were once in darkness, but now are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. For the fruit of light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. We should always seek what pleases the Lord.

2) Christ will shine on you

Eph: 5:13 “But everything exposed by the light becomes visible – and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.” Christ shines on you and me. There are two aspects of this verse:

- a) The light of Christ reveals or exposes your sins and weakness. This helps you to repent/correct yourself and purification. I John 1:7-9 confirms this truth.
- b) Christ is the light source. We are his ambassadors. We are like a channel for His light. Each of us is like a fiber that brings out His characters and His glory. If we are not holy as described as the children of light, then we are like a defective fiber. We are not able to fully bring out God’s characters and glory. Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

3) Call to be Awake and not coma

“This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you” (Eph. 5:14). God calls us to be spiritual awake and not spiritual dead. Once we are willing to be spiritual awake that means we start to seek God, Christ shines on us. The later verses point out the key elements or actions of spiritual awake:

- a) Careful the way you live (Vs. 15) – think and act wisely from the wisdom of God (Vs. 15)
- b) Make the most of your time (Vs. 16) – time is limited on earth and thus make every opportunity to witness for God and glory God
- c) Seek and know God’s will (Vs. 17) – Do not be foolish and go on your way. Seek and follow God.
- d) Let the Spirit fill you (Vs. 18) – Do not seek indulgence in sensual pleasures but live a Spirit filled life
- e) Sing and speak with joy and encouragement to others; sing and give praises to God (Vs. 19)
- f) Always giving thanks to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Vs. 20)
- g) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Vs. 21)

In summary, God is light and He brings out hope, righteousness, goodness, holiness, etc. We are His vessel to bring out His light and glory to the world like fiber optic light. Let’s us continuous to seek and follow God, let the Spirit fill us, and be His faithful ambassadors. His light shines through you to others (Phil. 2:15).

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