

In the Light

“Follow God’s example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.” Ephesians 5:1-2

This is a beautiful description of how we are to interact with other people. A lovely array of words that point us to Christ’s life as a daily model for our lives. The verses immediately following, Ephesians 5:3-5, lay out what that looks like. Purity, generosity, sweet speech and thankfulness. When we think about the life of Christ, we see him display those values in many different situations. His life was full of the fruits of light. Goodness, righteousness, and truth. (Ephesians 5:8-9)

Jesus is the light for our journey through this world. When we look to the light, we can see things clearly. Everything is exposed by light. Ugly things and pretty things. Useful things and harmful things. The light shines evenly on them all. When we turn away from the darkness of the world the light is always before us. Ephesians 5:14 says, that change in our lives, turning from dark to light, is like rising from the dead. When we see in the light, we are able to live wisely and make the most of every opportunity, Ephesians 5:15-16. We are able to fill our lives with purity, generosity, sweet speech and thankfulness.

Ephesians 5 doesn’t sugar coat things. Verse 16 tells us the days are evil. Life brings days of struggle, pain, and hardship for all of us. Being in the light does not remove us from that. However, the light lets us live out those beautiful Christ values when things get hard. We have the Spirit, Eph. 5:18. We have each other. We encourage and sustain each other, Ep. 5:19. We live in a way that shines light into the darkness because of the power of the cross. The fragrant offering of Christ’s love for us is always there to help us love each other after his example. - The Yarbroughs