



2/6/25

These are a big few days in our family. My younger daughter... my baby's birthday is today, and Tim turns 60 tomorrow. It doesn't seem possible. I just want to make it clear that I'm MUCH younger than him. Hahaha. (Well, 3 1/2 years younger) So... I hope you have a wonderful day. Every day is a celebration when we belong to the Lord.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Ephesians 5:11-21

If I look at the verses right before this passage, I see that I've been told that walking in love and walking in the light means that I will discern, examine, and test out what pleases the Lord. What are some examples of doing what pleases the Lord, of doing what He says is good, right, and true?

Vs. 11-14 ~ I won't take part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead I'll expose them by walking in the light. This is really important for me to see. Exposing the unfruitful works of darkness doesn't mean that I treat everyone as though I'm superior to them... it actually says "it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret." So how do I expose them??? By walking in the light... by walking in love... by not partaking in the things of darkness. That's enough to expose the darkness. Acting superior to unbelievers is simply another form of darkness.

I have to remember, this is talking about the unsaved. I shouldn't expect someone who doesn't know the Lord to act like someone who does. The prayer is that, as my light shines on the unbelievers' darkness, the exposure of their darkness will cause them to "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." The prayer is that my light will call them to the light of Jesus so that they, too, can walk in His love.

Vs. 15-21 ~ So I need to be careful how I walk through life. To walk in love and to walk in the light is to walk in wisdom. James 3:17-18 says, "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then

peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace." That is a very different picture of wisdom than the way the world defines it. Wisdom from God is peaceful. So I'm called to walk in love, light, wisdom, and peace. This is how I make the best use of the time I have here on earth.

My time on earth is not about me. It's about growing closer to my Lord, walking and looking more and more like Jesus, loving my brothers and sisters in Christ, and modeling Jesus to those who don't know Him. This is how I make the best use of the time... because the days are evil. The world is working against this... because the ruler of this world is the devil and he's a liar who just wants to destroy what God calls good.

To walk in selfishness rather than love, to walk in darkness rather than light... is to walk in foolishness rather than wisdom. To walk in wisdom is to understand God's desires... to understand what pleases Him. It's to do what He designed me to do.

To walk in love, light, and wisdom is to be filled with the Spirit rather than any other substance or desire. It's to let the Spirit control my heart rather than being controlled by alcohol, food, tv, adrenaline rush activities... whatever.

This is so important because I CAN'T walk in love, light, or wisdom WITHOUT the Holy Spirit filling my heart. If I try, I end up drifting to the darkness.

When I let the Spirit fill me, I will be a light to unbelievers who live in the unfruitful works of darkness. AND I will speak to other believers in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs... things that build up rather than tear down. I will sing songs of worship to the Lord from my heart rather than singing to SELF. I will thank the Lord in every circumstance, knowing that He LOVES me. I matter to Him. I will humbly submit to other believers BECAUSE I humbly submit to my Lord who I worship. The Holy Spirit WANTS to fill me so that I don't MAKE myself say kind words or sing or give thanks or humbly submit... but so that doing those things comes from my heart. The Holy Spirit is working in me to transform me so that I become what I was designed to do.

O Holy Spirit, please fill me so that I walk in love as Jesus loved me... so that I walk in the light, reflecting the perfect light of Jesus... so that I walk in wisdom because wisdom comes from You... so that I care for and am humble toward other believers as Jesus was when He walked this earth. My job is to turn to You and behold Your glory. And when I do that, You change me to become who You, my Lord, designed me to be. Praise Your name.