

## ALL IN THE FAMILY (OF GOD)

### #3: Children of the Light

January 27-29, 2007

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. *John 1:9-13 TNIV*

<sup>1</sup>Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for the Lord's people. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them. <sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. *Ephesians 5:1-13 TNIV*

Introduction: To be a child of God and a member of God's own family is to be a "child of the light." This common Biblical metaphor is reflected in our own cultural notions of good and evil, light and darkness, though the imagery is often vague. The New Testament contrast between light and darkness is quite specific, and the life proscribed for "children of light" is "plain as day."

- I. True Light (John 1)
    - A. What had been opaque became clear in the appearance of Jesus, "the true light [that came] into the world." (v.9)
    - B. Those who see the light of Christ gain the "right" to become children of God: part of God's family. (v.12)
    - C. This right is neither a birthright, nor a human right, nor even a legal right, but a grace gift given in the cross of Jesus Christ. (v.13)
    - D. Yet many are blinded by the darkness of human nature and choose not to see the light. (vv.10-11)
  - II. Light Rights (Ephesians 5)
    - A. Children of the light are freed to "walk in love." (v.1)
    - B. Children of the light are freed to "find out what pleases the Lord," and this pursuit becomes for them the great adventure of life. (vv.8-10)
      1. Goodness,
      2. Righteousness, and
      3. Truth
    - C. Children of the light are freed to "be visible." (v.13)  
[Jesus said,] "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*
  - III. Not Light Lite
    - A. Light rights come with light responsibilities: No sexual immorality, impurity, greed, obscenity, foolish talk, or course joking. (vv.3-4)
    - B. Light rights are not granted to immoral, impure, or greedy persons; they lose their inheritance. (v.5)
    - C. The "deeds of darkness" are "fruitless"—a waste of time and effort—and not worth mentioning. (vv.11-12)
    - D. We were designed to live in the light!
- Conclusion: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. As part of the family of God, then, live as children of the light!