

VBF Women's Study

LESSON 41 EPHESIANS 5:11-14

As you read through and study this letter, humble yourself before God, asking Him to open your heart and help you understand His Word. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

Assignment: Read through Ephesians chapter 5 several times. Attempt to answer the following discussion questions. Enjoy your study!

Questions:

1. REVIEW: Summarize what you have learned so far in each of the following verses and then as a whole:
 - a. 5:1-2
 - b. 5:3-4
 - c. 5:5-7
 - d. 5:8-10
2. REVIEW: Are you by and large demonstrating in your life "what is pleasing to the Lord" or are you grieving His Spirit?

Lexical note: The verb translated "participate in" (sugkoinoneo) in verse 11 means literally share with or fellowship with.

3. What are we believers commanded not to do (5:11)? Explain what this means in light of the context of what has been taught earlier in the chapter.
4. How are the "deeds" we are not to share in described in 5:11? How do these terms relate to verses 8-?

Lexical note: The verb translated "expose" (elegcho) in verse 11 and "exposed" in verse 13 means to bring to light. It is often translated convict or reprove even rebuke, like in 2Timothy 3:16 and John 16:8, Matthew 18:15 and 1 Timothy 5:20 respectively.

5. From 5:11, what are believers to do in contrast to having fellowship with the unfruitful deeds of darkness?
6. Before we look at how we are to "expose" the "unfruitful deed of darkness" in context (cf. 12-13). We need to gain understanding concerning a few related issues, so that we will not error in our interpretation of 5:11b. With this in mind answer the following:
 - a. What do the following reveal about conviction or exposing of sin? See John 16:8, 2Tim. 3:16, Hebrews 4:12.

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- b. What do the following reveal about how we are to expose and/or address sin within the body of Christ, including within our own lives?
- i. 1Corinthians 5:1-13
 - ii. Galatians 6:1
 - iii. Matthew 18:15-20
 - iv. Proverbs 9:8, 19:25, 27:6
 - v. Psalm 139:23-24, Psalm 119:11, 2Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Thes. 5:21-22, 1Cor. 11:28-29

- c. What do the following reveal about how we are to expose and/or address sin in the world?
- i. 1Corinthians 5:1-13 (especially vs. 12-13)
 - ii. Matt 7:6
 - iii. Proverbs 9:8, 19:25, 23:9, 26:4-5

7. From 5:12, why else are we not to participate with those who are doing deeds of darkness but in contrast expose?
8. What does Paul say in verse 13 in contrast to what he said in verse 12? (Note the word "exposed")
9. Looking at the explanation of verse 11b in verses 12-13, how might the unfruitful deeds of darkness be exposed in non-believers if we are not even to speak of them (12)? (See Matthew 5:13-16 also).

Interpretive note: Although verse 14 is difficult to interpret, and there are many opinions, I think the basic point can be understood, even without understanding the quote's origin completely.

10. In context, what do you think Paul's main point is in verse 14?

11. Are you walking in such a manner that your life sheds light on the darkness around you?

12. What are we commanded to do "Therefore" in verses 15-17? (Lord willing, we will look at these more closely next time)