

Have No Fellowship With Darkness

Through the apostle Paul, the Holy Spirit admonished Christians, “*You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. . . . And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*” (Ephesians 5:8, 11). A quick scan of the inspired epistle to the Ephesians reveals what those people were when they were more than just ‘in the dark’ but were darkness. They were once “*dead in trespasses and sins*” because they lived according to this world’s standard and a spirit of disobedience (2:1, 2). They were without Christ and without God (2:12). They had walked “*in the futility of their mind*” and practiced lewdness and “*uncleanness with greediness*” (4:17, 19). They were darkness because of their character, and their character was the result of their choices and actions.

Often men seek to justify deeds which are in actuality ‘dark’ deeds. Jesus told Nicodemus, “*... Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*” (John 3:19). Such actions are dark because they are evil choices, shameful things and disobedient behavior. The word of our Lord is bold in exposing all manner of sinful conduct. Lying, stealing, bitterness, anger, fornication, filthy language, covetousness – are just a few of the dark things people do and practice. Many condone and continue to commit sin because they choose not to love and believe the truth but to find pleasure in unrighteousness (cf. II Thessalonians 1:10, 12).

A commandment of the Lord Jesus is that the called out in Christ must NOT have fellowship with darkness. Paul wrote elsewhere, “*... For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?*” (II Corinthians 6:14). The word ‘fellowship’ means sharing in common. Although all men have sinned, the gospel calls sinners to no longer share in sin – that is do not associate, participate nor partake in sin. The goal is to cease sinning, to no longer have anything in common with darkness (cf. I John 2:1). Men cannot have fellowship with God, who is light, while walking in darkness (cf. I John 1:6). That is why Christians are reminded, “*‘Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean,...*’” (II Corinthians 6:17). God promises that He will pour out His wrath upon disobedience and unrighteousness (Ephesians 5:6; Colossians 3:6; Romans 1:18).