

As Dear Children

III. Children Need to Know Their _____: v7-14

It can be difficult for a person to understand their worth to God, especially when they realize they are sinners before a holy God and deserve His wrath rather than His love, mercy, and grace.

A. every person is worth _____: v8

Every person needs to understand that God loves them and wants them to be saved; He wants them to have a personal relationship with Him; and He wants them to draw near to Him. But the only way to Father is through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ; He wants every person to understand that if He's willing to send His son to die on the cross for them ... they are worth saving.

B. believers are worth _____: v9-14

How does God use a believer? He uses them as a living testimony to His power, life and light.

- The evidence of salvation is seen in the fruit of their lives (Gal. 5:22-23). Evidence of their salvation is seen in their obedience to God's Word (John 14:15)

He uses them to spread the light of Christ.

- As light, we are to expose sin. As the light of the gospel exposes sin and convicts the sinner of his guilt, and as the Holy Spirit begins to reprove the sinner of sin, righteousness, and judgment it is at that point that men are then given the opportunity to make a choice ... heaven or hell—salvation or damnation.

And God uses the child of God in that process.

Friends, God's plan for your life, as a dear child of God, is to conform you into the image of His Son. He therefore wants you to know how to walk as one of His children, the ways of darkness and your worth as His child because you are evidence of His power, life and light in this dark world.



October 31, 2021

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Eph. 5:1-14

There is a common misconception, even within our churches, that everyone is a child of God. As wonderful and comforting as this may seem, the problem is ... it isn't true. While all people are God's creation and children of Adam, not all people are children of God.

This morning we will look closely at the phrase found in verse 1, **as dear children**, and see three things that God wants every true, born-again believer to know about this statement.

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I: I. Children Need to Know How to _____: v1-2, 8

As Christians, God has expectations for our spiritual walk but there are things that can prevent us from learning how to spiritually walk with Jesus, namely sin and selfishness. But praise God, when we follow Jesus, He teaches us how to spiritually walk.

A. Jesus teaches us how to walk in _____
The word "**followers**" means imitate. The word "**walk**" speaks of conduct or behavior. So, the child of God, those who have believed on and follow Jesus Christ are to imitate Christ's love.

B. Jesus teaches us how to walk in _____
1 John 1:5 ... ***This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.***

if God is light, and if we are to imitate Christ in our behavior and conduct, that means that the light of Christ should be reflected in our walk and service to Christ, our church, and our community.

What does your walk look like this morning? As a dear child of God, are you walking in Christ's love? Are you walking in Christ's light? The two are perfectly connected and as dear children of God it is a both or neither situation.

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II. Children Need to Know the _____ of **Darkness**: v3-7

For the most part, children are afraid of the dark. They are afraid that something they can't see will get them or scare them. But in terms of spiritual darkness, God gives us some things in that helps His children to discern what is light and dark.

A. _____ is a way of darkness: v3-6
Paul gives a list of things that defile. A few include fornication, all uncleanness, covetousness, filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting, idolatry.

B. _____ is a way of darkness: v5
Paul isn't speaking of losing one's salvation but rather their inheritance and reward. And the ways of darkness, rather than light, not only serve to destroy one's fellowship with the Lord and their Christian walk, but also their testimony.

C. _____ is a way of darkness: v6
Sin is deceiving and dark and those who present false doctrines of salvation are offering vain words. The only prevention of the wrath of God—the only way of reconciliation to God—the only way to have our sins forgiven - is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And anything that teaches contrary to this is deception and will bring upon the children of disobedience the lost person the wrath of God.

And Paul says in v7 ... ***7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*** The child of God is stay away from sin as well as the children of disobedience.
