

## Ephesians 5:6-10

### Verse 6

**Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.**

Gnosticism, a religion already causing problems for Christians, taught that what the body does has no effect on the inner man. Thus, those who advocated this religion believed it was fine to engage in all these unclean sexual acts. However, Paul refers to such teaching as “empty words,” and warns about being deceived. In Colossians 2:8, he wrote, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ,” and in Romans 1:18, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.” Deception is still one of the devil's most effective tools (Genesis 3:4; II Corinthians 11:3), and the Christian must always be on guard against it. The devil does not play fair!

The eternal security we enjoy in Christ, by no means extends leniency or liberality towards sexual immorality or other unprincipled acts in the life of a Christian. Nor does it unlock the doors of cultural compromises or societal tolerance to believers. We must never forget that although we are in the world, we are not to be part of the world... nor must fallen man's degenerate behaviors influence us. We are not to be squeezed into the world's mold.

Pre-marital, extra-marital, and gay-marital sex, together with every other ungodly or unbiblical practices may be accepted by a community, or embraced by a culture, but they remain an abomination to the Lord. Christians should not be intimidated by the standard of fallen humanity nor desensitized to sin by the world in which we live - for any sin will cause fellowship with our heavenly Father to be broken.

*Question...what is our role as Christians - should we be witnessing and teaching on marriage or should we be letting people know pre-marital, extra-marital, and gay-marital sex are unmoral will lead to eternity in hell?*

## Verse 7

**Therefore, do not be partakers with them.**

Since the consequences of reverting back to a pagan lifestyle are so serious, it is a **dangerous** thing to partner with lost people.

The word “be” means *become*. The Christian is not to lapse back into his former non-Christian lifestyle, into the vices of verses three to five. The Greek conveys this idea: “Stop therefore becoming partners with unbelievers.” Ephesian believers were **already** joining non-Christians in their lifestyle.

Christians should not act like non-Christians. Believers should not **partner** with non-believers. This is not a prohibition of all contact with non-believers ([1 Co 5:10](#)). Rather, becoming a partner with unbelievers signifies one who shares their terminal values.

*Question...what should your response be to Christians who believe “grace” keeps them from going to hell for sexual sins?*

## Verse 8

**For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.**

To help these Christians see where they were, compared to where they are now, Paul uses a common illustration—light and darkness. God and His kingdom are always referred to as light. On the other hand, the devil and his kingdom are always referred to as darkness: “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13). The apostle Peter referred to how Christ “called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light” (I Peter 2:9). When converted, the Christian becomes the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). In other words, the Christian is not just in the light, he is light, just as he was not just in darkness, but was darkness. Christians keep the darkness out by walking as children of light.

There is a world of difference between the unsaved life and the life that we have in Christ. Before salvation, we were children of the night and a product of the darkness of sin. The unsaved soul is trapped in the dungeon of sin, but by faith we can cast off the works of darkness and be clothed in His armor of light. Christians belong to the realm of light and are not to fellowship with the values of sinners. We are the light of the world ([Mt 5:14](#)). We are God's light to a world in darkness. Enlightened people shed light on others.

Although we are now the children of the light, much darkness remains in us. The difference now that we are Christians is that we are not in total darkness anymore. We know something of God, His grace, and His plan for us. This was a radical change for our lives.

*Question...can walking in the light be overwhelming for a Christian at times?*

Verse 9

**For the fruit of the Spirit {is} in all goodness, righteousness, and truth.**

When Christians are walking as children of light, they will be bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Instead of those wicked things mentioned in verses 3 and 4, they will be demonstrating goodness, righteousness, and truth. The contrast is as different as day and night or light and darkness.

The Greek word for "goodness" here is what is moral excellence; it is good both in nature and effectiveness. This is an active good that benefits **others**. This is a word that is others oriented ([1 Th 5:15](#)). "Goodness" is a fruit of the Spirit ([Ga 5:22](#)).

The second fruit of the Spirit is "righteousness." Since we have God's righteousness, we pursue righteousness ([1 Ti 6:11](#); [1 Jn 2:29](#)). The idea is to adhere to what is right. "Righteousness" is **God** oriented.

"Goodness" pertains to God, whereas "righteousness" relates to our relationship with God; however, "truth" relates to the Christian's personal **integrity**. We are to practice truth in every way: (1) believe it, (2) speak it, (3) live it.

No can live without manifesting fruit of some kind. Non-Christians show what they are by what they do; the same is also true with Christians. Unbelievers display fruit from the dark. Christians show fruit from the light.

All Christian production comes from their entrance into the light. All production must be done in the sphere of goodness, righteousness, and veracity. All Christian fruit must be intrinsically good (integrity toward others), acceptable to divine standards (integrity with self), and operate under the sphere of God's revelation (integrity toward God by knowing principles of the Word and applying the Word).

*Question...so is this verse saying that we will produce some kind of fruit -good or bad and there is nothing in between? Can't I just produce NO fruit at all?*

Verse 10

**Proving what is acceptable to the Lord.**

Christians need to test for approval what is acceptable to the Lord. It takes some work to decipher what **pleases** the Lord. Unbelievers attempt to keep sin in the dark. Christians are to manifest the light of what glorifies the Lord. The Christians is to ascertain by testing what pleases the Lord. We need to know what applies to the Christian walk. The supreme end of the believer's life is to glorify God.

The ultimate standard for testing what pleases the Lord, or what is His will, is the Word of God. Knowing God's will is not some mystical experience. It is something objectively and clearly set forth in Scriptures by the Holy Spirit.

*Question...Romans 12:2 says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." How does this relate to Ephesians 5:10?*