



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:3-7**

**TITLE: Darkness is Dangerous**

Life in the dark is dangerous. I'm a light sleeper, so I like a quiet, pitch-black room, even when I travel. Well, in January while on vacation, we slept in pitch black hotel rooms. Now, that's all well and good until you wake up in the middle of the night and need to find the restroom. Navigating a pitch-black room that is foreign to you is like asking for painful humiliation. I stubbed my shin and toes. I tripped over kids' shoes. I stumbled over the luggage. Life in the dark is dangerous!

Well, we, as Christians, are called to live as children of the light. This means doing certain things while avoiding others. What do I mean? Let's listen to the apostle Paul in Ephesians 5:3-7.

Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. Don't participate in the things these people do.

Paul lists out some very practical examples of life in the darkness: Sexual sin, greed, running our mouths in defilement or defamation. These are characteristics of people who are children of the darkness. This is why Paul would say that you can be sure these kinds of people will not inherit the Kingdom of God. Does this mean if we still sin, we lose our salvation? No. Of course not. Does this mean that if you struggle with sexual in or lose control of your mouth that God will reject you? Of course not.

What Paul is saying is that when your reputation and your life is marked by these kinds of lifestyles, you aren't really saved. If you've been calling yourself a Christian for 20 years but living like a pagan the whole time, you aren't really saved. That's Paul's point.

Unfortunately, there will be people in your lives, even supposed Christians and Christian leaders who will excuse or even endorse these behaviors. Paul says, "They're wrong. Don't listen to them. Listen to God."

This is a heavy and pointed passage, but at times it has to be. Life in the light is freeing. It's life-giving. But life in the darkness is separate from God and deadly.

My challenge for you today is to pause and think about influence in your life. Who or what influences what you believe and how you live? Is it a magazine? Is it Facebook or Twitter? Is it a coworker? Is it a family member? Is it Netflix or Youtube? Or is it God through His Word?

Once you determine who and what influences you, then be honest about the positive or negative impact it's having on your life. Is it drawing you to live in the dark or live in the light?

Then make the decision to cut out the negative influence and come back to the Bible.

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Take this challenge and enjoy real life in the light.

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