



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

**Scripture: Ephesians 5:8-14**

**TITLE: Loving Others Well**

Don't be a tattletale. Remember hearing that while growing up? My youngest son sometimes likes to keep the law, but other times he likes to get his brothers in trouble. In fact, I don't know how many times I heard, "Hey, Dad! Guess what 'so and so' just did?" As a parent, it's hard to decipher the motivation. But being a tattletale is all about "me." It's often calling out an action to benefit *me*.

But when the motivation is right – when done in love, it's actually a Christian thing to do. What do I mean?

Listen to what Paul says in Ephesians 5:8-14.

For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
rise up from the dead,  
and Christ will give you light.”

Paul will continually contrast life before and after our salvation. He would say in Colossians and Romans how we were once enemies of God, but now we are reconciled to God. We are now children of God. Paul says we were slaves to sin, but now slaves to God. Paul says we were once dead in sin, but now are alive with Christ. And now Paul says, we were once children of darkness, but now children of light.

You see, God doesn't just provide us a ticket to heaven through Jesus. He provides a *new life*—a new life in the light.

That's why Paul says, “You are a child of light, live like it.”

You today are a child of the King of the universe. We don't have to live like paupers. Live like princes and princesses. You are free. You are alive.

How can we know how to live? By looking at God's Word. By coming back to the Bible like you are today, allowing God to provide light to your path.

But then Paul says, "Expose the worthless, evil deeds."

We aren't just called to avoid evil, but call it out and expose it.

You see, what you tolerate is what you promote. Paul uses a word that also means to correct or discipline. It's not just call out, but at times correct.

Wow. This is a lot to take in. It's a lot to navigate. So what should we do in response?

My challenge for you today is to first examine yourself. How are you living as a child of darkness? How are you participating in sin? But also ask yourself, where have you been silent in calling out sin? Paul was pointing to exposing sin in the Christian community.

Have you pushed back on confronting someone in their sin because you didn't want to hurt a relationship or be called out on your own behavior? Paul reminds us that as a Christian when you love someone, you won't tolerate sin, but you'll expose it – both in yourself and in others.

Take this challenge and live in the light. It won't be easy, but it *will* provide freedom!