

## Series: Healthy Church

*Children of Light*

Sunday March 18, 2018

1. TEXT: Eph. 5:1-20

### 2. TEACHING

Have you ever noticed how children naturally imitate others in their lives?

3. "What are we sent into the world for? Is it not that we may keep men in mind of God, whom they are most anxious to forget? If we are imitators of God, as dear children, they will be compelled to recollect that there is a God, for they will see his character reflected in ours. I have heard of an atheist who said he could get over every argument except the example of his godly mother: he could never answer that."  
(Spurgeon)

4. *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving (Eph. 5:3-4).*

5. *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person – such a man is an idolater – has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them (Eph. 5:5-7).*

6. *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret (Eph. 5:8-12).*

7. We are human spiritual flashlights!

8. *But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Eph. 5:13-14).*

9. Where do you see your light shining? Where have you been good to someone else, where have you treated someone with respect as an equal, where have you spoken some truth into someone's life?

10. Where have you been lit up? Who has inspired you? Who has challenged you to live like a dear child of God? Who has spoken a hard truth into your life that you absorbed, tested, and responded to appropriately?

11. *Be careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:15-20).*

12. Two outcomes of being filled with the Spirit:

1. A heart of praise
2. A heart of thanksgiving