

CHILDREN OF LIGHT

Christians are referred to as “children of Light” (1 The. 5:5). The apostle Paul presents several reasons for this designation.

One reason Paul gives for identifying Christians as children of Light is because Christians are of the day; not of the night. Generally speaking, men do most of their work during the day and sleep at night. Christians must be workers. Jesus exhorts, “labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life” (John 6:27). Paul reminds, “let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief” (Heb. 4:11) as did those who died in the wilderness (cf. Deu. 1:34-39). Also, consider that the life of a Christian must be one that is not afraid of the light. Most evil and ungodly acts occur at night under the blanket of darkness. Evil is exposed by the light. Jesus says, “this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved” (John 3:19-20). When people attempt to do business “behind closed doors,” it is likely because they do not want their deeds to be exposed by the light. “Sunshine laws” exist in our government at all levels (local, state, and federal) to ensure that public policy and law is debated “in the light” so that citizens can observe what is being done relative to their governance. Sadly, Washington, D.C., has shut the doors more than a few times regarding legislation – casting a cloud of doubt over the process and the possible result. Christians have been given a divine “sunshine law” when it comes to what we practice and teach. The apostle Peter records, “sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pet. 3:15). A child of Light must never be ashamed or afraid to defend what he teaches and practices. As long as we are walking in the light of God’s word, there is no need to hide from anything or anyone. If anyone is unwilling or unable to defend a position, but chooses to continue to hold said position anyway, it should immediately invoke a “red flag.” Any position not worth defending is a position not worth having.

Second, Christians are children of Light because they are watchful and sober-minded. Being children of the day allows us to be awake and ready for what is ahead. Jesus urges, “watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing” (Mat. 24:42, 46). Paul equates being sober with being ready for battle – “putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation” (1 The. 5:8; Eph. 6:11-18). If we are not sober, or clear-minded, we will be unable to protect ourselves against the enemy. Peter states, “be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8).

Third, Christians are children of Light because they comfort and edify one another. Children of Light look out for each other, whereas children of darkness look out only for themselves. Like their Father, children of Light desire that all men “be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). Also consider that if we do not comfort and build each other up in the Most Holy Faith (Jude 20), who will be there to comfort and edify us when we are in need?

We should all seek to be children of Light. In order to do so, one must be a faithful follower of Jesus – the Light of the world (John 8:12). One must continue to walk in the light (1 John 1:7), being watchful and ready for battle and seeking good for one another. To the faithful

child of Light is an appointment with “salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 The. 5:9).

- *Brad Green*