

Ephesians

More than a Makeover

Who Is A Christian?

Ephesians 5:7-11

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 18, 2025

I. You Belong To A New Kingdom

Ephesians 5:8 “For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord...”

This verse gives us a picture of salvation that is startling!

You were darkness, but now you are light! In other words, the contrast could not be bigger or greater.

The Bible teaches there are two realms or two kingdoms: the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. There is no gray. Nobody lives with one foot in each kingdom.

If you’ve never come to faith in Christ, you’re in the kingdom of darkness because that’s where we all start. You didn’t have to choose it. You were born into it as a child of darkness.

Paul gets right to the heart of what it means to be a Christian – you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.

He points to a radical, new realm or kingdom that you’re standing in now, not because of any new behaviors you’re doing, but because of what Jesus has done!

Peter talks about the same thing.

1 Peter 2:9-10 “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

If you say you’re a Christian, there has to be a **“But Now” moment** where you were transferred out of the kingdom of darkness and into His marvelous light! There has to be a moment where the light of God’s truth, God’s Son, and God’s hope exploded in you and transferred you into a new kingdom.

Salvation is not about your effort to do better and move up the spiritual ladder. It’s about where you stand and what realm you are in by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, plus nothing.

II. You Have A New Identity

Ephesians 5:8 “...you are light in the Lord...”

That prepositional phrase, “in the Lord,” captures what being a Christian is all about because it links back to the first three chapters of Ephesians where Paul tells us over and over that everything we have now, and everything we are now, is because we’re in Christ.

The moment you believed in Him as your Savior, you were united to Him and put in Him.

1:1 You "...are faithful *in Christ Jesus*..."

1:3 He's "...blessed us *in Christ* with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places..."

1:4 "...He chose us *in Him* before the foundation of the world..."

1:6 "...He has blessed us *in the Beloved*."

1:7 "*In Him* we have redemption through His blood..."

1:11 "*In Him* we have obtained an inheritance..."

1:13 "*In Him* you also...were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..."

2:5 "But God...made us alive together *with Christ*..."

2:6 "...and seated us *with Him* in the heavenly places *in Christ*..."

2:7 "...so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us *in Christ Jesus*."

2:13 "But now *in Christ Jesus* you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

You're either in Christ or you're not. He's either your Savior or you're still trying to be your own savior. You're either resting in what He's done or busy doing what you think you need to do to please God.

III. You See Things You Never Saw Before

Ephesians 5:9 "For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true..."

Paul's talking about how you couldn't even see what is good, right, and true because you were blinded by our enemy, Satan.

2 Corinthians 4:4, 6-7 "Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God...⁶ For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ We now have this light shining in our hearts..."

Can you point to a moment in your life when it was "lights out" regarding the wonder, glory, and beauty of Jesus, but then the lights went on?

That's how Paul describes salvation. It's the ability to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ for the first time! It's all about Jesus, who now looks glorious to you. He always was glorious, you just couldn't see it until God turned the lights on!

That's because darkness was not just a realm in which you lived, it was your "lights out," internal heart condition. Your biggest problem was never the darkness around you, but the darkness inside you that kept you from seeing what is good, glorious, and true.

Ephesians 4:18 "They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of heart."

IV. You Don't Have To Know The Exact Moment Of Your Salvation

You can know that you are saved without knowing the exact day or moment that it happened.

Some of you had a salvation experience that was dramatic. It was a glorious explosion of darkness into light. You know exactly when it happened and where it happened. You'll never get over it.

But for others, your salvation was a gradual dawning or a process over time where there was more and more light and less and less darkness, so that you don't have a date, but you know that somewhere during a certain period of time God saved you. You had light, you had clarity, and you could see in ways you'd never seen before.

God had moved you from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of His dear Son.