

Connect

During his time on Earth, Jesus chose to spend a lot of his time with sinners.

Is doing so OK for believers? (See Ephesians 5:7-12)

How should we choose who to spend time with?

Verses - Ephesians 5:6-14 (CSB)

6 Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for God's wrath is
coming on the disobedient because of these things. 7 Therefore, do
not become their partners. 8 For you were once darkness, but now
you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light— 9 for the fruit of
the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth— 10 testing
what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Don't participate in the fruitless
works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful
even to mention what is done by them in secret. 13 Everything
exposed by the light is made visible, 14 for what makes everything
visible is light. Therefore it is said: Get up, sleeper, and rise up from
the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Study

1. Paul says (v.6) “God’s wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things.” What things is Paul referring to? (Review Ephesians 5:3-5) Who are “the disobedient”? How and when does God's wrath come on them?

2. By what empty arguments might Christians be so deceived? (vv. 6, 7)

3. How can Christians test what is pleasing to the Lord? (vv. 8-10)

4. How should Christians expose such (fruitless, shameful, unmentionable) works of darkness while avoiding mentioning them? (vv. 11-12) What is the purpose of the exposure of sin called for in v. 11?

APPLY

Clearly it is Paul’s desire and expectation that Christians will avoid joining in sinful behaviors. But do you think that Paul expected Christians to completely avoid sinful people? What is Paul saying about the role of Christians in bringing the light of salvations to those who are dead in sin by walking in the light? What is the danger?

DISCUSS

Christians do not always agree about everything, including how to read and understand what the Bible says about certain things. When there is honest disagreement among Christian brothers and sisters regarding what is pleasing to the Lord, how should such situations be handled? How can we grow from it?

Share

Since becoming a Christian, have you ever been “deceived with empty arguments” by someone who persuaded you to join them in some activity that was sinful?
Please share your story with the group if you are comfortable to do so.

Grow

Please pray that God will protect us from the empty arguments of those who would have us become partners in their sinful activities. Pray that, instead, God will let us see what is pleasing to him in light of the cross of Christ, keeping us away from sin but, also, showing the light of Christ in the world through us in a way that can save others who are lost.