

The background of the entire image is a photograph of ancient stone ruins, likely from the Roman or Greek era. The scene shows a path made of large, flat stone slabs leading through a landscape of more ruins and greenery. On the right side, there is a large, multi-tiered stone wall. In the center of the image, there is a dark, textured rectangular area that serves as a backdrop for the text. To the right of this dark area, there is a glowing orange cross symbol.

Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

**Walk in the Light**

## Ephesians Series – Understanding / Becoming

- You are: chosen, adopted, redeemed, forgiven, sealed, gifted, empowered
- Clear call to respond to God's Love & Work

Eph. 2:8-10 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

- walk in a manner worthy 4:1
- no longer walk 4:17
- put off old self, put on.... 4:24
- Last Week – Walk in Love
  - be ‘imitators of God’
  - deal with Passions and Perspectives
  - put on thanksgiving

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup> and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret.

<sup>13</sup> But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup> for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

## 1. Be Careful

a) deceive you with empty words

- many voices for our ears
- Satan called a 'master of deception'
- God's wrath will be revealed!

b) not to become 'partners with them'

- cannot fit in – new clothes stand out
- will be different – don't try to be same
- new creation in Christ

- Eph. 2:4-6 “ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus”

## 2. Walk as Children of Light

- known by fruit – all good, right and true
  - a) discern what is Pleasing to the Lord
    - difference between guessing & discerning
    - suggest great intentionality
    - Bob's three suggestions
      - love – perspective & heart check
      - learn – is this addressed in God's word
      - listen – to the Holy Spirit leading

b) Take no Part

- unfruitful works of darkness
- am I willing to align...
- Priorities?
- Practices?
- are there closed area's in my life and heart where I don't wish to surrender to God's best for my life?

c) Bring it into the Light

i) expose them

- shining the light of truth allowing God
- visible to us and others – role of the community of faith here
- conditions necessary – Eph. 4:32

“<sup>32</sup> Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”

ii) secrets and shame

- not exposing is destructive to us
- enslaved and ensnared by the hidden
- fear and anxiety constant – paralyzing

iii) visible and vanquished

- taken to cross – already dealt with
- freed from guilt, fear, shame, failure
- walking without that burden

1 John 1:5-9 “<sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

### 3. Corporate Nature

- as a body....

- a) be careful

- overseers & shepherds important

- careful about our body

- b) walking as children of light

- discerning what is pleasing

- taking no part – what we are about

- bringing truth into the light

## So What?

1. Ask God to reveal any deception
  - posture yourself to hear and take action
2. Determine to walk as a child of light
  - how is your process of discernment?
  - are you willing to make changes in your priorities and practices?
3. If there are things the light reveals...
  - take them to cross, allow others to walk with you in love