Ephesians 5:7-14 - 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." NASB

A. Therefore do not be partakers with them; 8 for you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord: - Again Paul stressing the importance of separation from the evil deeds and lifestyles of unbelievers, but here, because WE HAVE BEEN MADE NEW, we “were darkness” but now “are light in the Lord.” Because we are light, we can no longer be partakers of the deeds of darkness, that would be to deny who we are, if indeed we are light in the Lord. The theme of darkness and light in the New Testament is commonly associated with the behavior of unbelievers which is characterized by sin, and believers which is characterized by holiness.

Matthew 5:14 - 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. NASB
Philippians 2:14-15 - 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; 15 that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, NASB
2 Corinthians 6:14 - 14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? NASB
Romans 13:12-14 - 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. NASB

B. walk as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), 10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. – Here again are three contrasts with the former life of the Gentiles and the new life of the Christian;

- what brings the wrath of God ----- what is pleasing to the Lord
- fruitful walk as children of light ----- the unfruitful deeds of darkness
- immorality, impurity, covetous ----- goodness, righteousness, truth

Here we are exhorted to live like who we are, children of light. And this life WILL PRODUCE THE FRUIT OF LIGHT in our lives which is;

- **goodness** - God’s character or virtue, gk. agathosune, goodness, i.e. virtue or beneficence: --goodness.
- **righteousness** - rightstanding with God, gk. dikaiosune, equity (of character or act); specially (Christian) justification:--righteousness
- **truth** – that which is true, gk. aletheia, truth:--true, truly, truth, verity.

We are further exhorted to “try and learn what is pleasing to the Lord.” We are ever and continually learning what pleases God so that we may conform our lives to it, always seeking to know the will of God for our lives that we may do it!

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 - 21 But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22 abstinence from every form of evil. NASB
Romans 12:2 - 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. NASB
Philippians 1:9-10 - 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; NASB

C. And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; 12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light. 14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you." – The Christian is to have no part in sin for these are the deeds of darkness. These are “unfruitful deeds” and bring about no good thing, but rather only destruction. The Christian is to live a life of separation from sin. This theme is repeated again and again in scripture.

(2Cor 6:14, 1Cor 5:9-11, 10:20-22, 2Thes 3:6,14, 1 Tim 5:20, Rev 18:4, 2 Tim 3:5, )

Psalms 1:1 - How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! NASB

Romans 6:21- 21 Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. NASB

No only this, but we here are called to “expose or reprove” these “deeds of darkness.” That we are to call attention to them and to bring the truth to bear upon them, exposing them to the light of God’s truth! The Greek word for expose here is the word…

expose – to reprove – gk. elegcho, 1651 - of uncertain affinity; to confute, admonish:--convict, convince, tell a fault, rebuke, reprove.

All of this because it is “disgraceful or shameful to even mention” what sinners do “in darkness,” much less participate with them. It is for these things that God’s wrath is coming!

Romans 13:11-14 - 11 And this do, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed. 12 The night is almost gone, and the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. NASB

Is it a surprise to us that sinners don’t like to fellowship with us? Should we be shocked that sinners don’t darken the door at the church? Let us maintain that holy sense of separation in the church, continually bringing the light of God’s truth to shine upon our deeds and desires, and let God’s brightest sunbeams shine into the recesses of our hearts that we might be cleansed.

John 3:19-21 - 19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.” NASB