



Walk by Faith

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

The Invitation

Let Your Light Shine

So Far in *The Invitation...*

Invitation to Gratitude

- God's design – start with thanksgiving
- Not our natural inclination – intentional
- Resets our perspective, changes trust

Invitation to Journey together

- God invites us to relationship, new life
- God clear about family life, gives instruction
- God expects your response, participation

Today's invitation... let your light shine!

1. Design of God – that you would shine

a) Language of Scripture

- **lights that are seen, Phil.2:15** “*that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world*”

- **ambassadors, 2 Cor. 5:19-20** “in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.”

- **witnesses, Acts 1:8** *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

b) cultural confusion on this issue

- faith – personal has become private
- individuality – not in community, accountability and responsibility
- learning & following – loss of trust in leaders and institutions, many choices for influence

c) Clear direction for God's Children

- clear about God's design – people set apart**
- God known through his people**

- Eph. 5:1-2,15-16 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.....¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

2. Pattern in Scripture – Redemptive in your Place

a) God Placed you Here

- **Acts 17:26** “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him”

b) Called to bless the place you were planted

- exiles told to bless the city (Jer 29:4-8)

c) intended you to be recognizable

- **known by our love, John 13:35** *“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*
- **agents of reconciliation, 2 Cor. 5:18** *“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation”*

d) Instructed us about our conduct in society

- **issues like giving to government what is due**
- **respecting authorities, praying for them**

- Titus 2:7-10 *“Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. ⁹ Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, ¹⁰ not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”*

- identifiable by our conduct – children of God, we are called to be redemptive in our place

3. Example of How – Paul

- Col. 4:2-6 “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. ⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.”

a) starts with prayer

- for God to open the door
- for courage to speak truth (Rom. 10:8-10)
- for clarity to communicate (1 Peter 3:16-17)

b) walk in wisdom

- wisdom – knowledge rightly applied
- Holy Spirit to grant discernment & empowerment to live what you learn

c) steward your time

- best use of time – good things - God things

d) gracious speech – seasoned with salt

- difference between grace & mercy
- speech that builds up, grants what is not earned or deserved
- seasoned with truth in love – preserves and protects, delivered with care

e) knowing how to answer each person

- discerning the real issue and heart
- being ok with leaving unsatisfied
- God's timing and truth carefully dispensed

So What?

- Having responded to God's invitation to relationship with Him
- Understanding his invitation involves growing in maturity, discovering and using your gifting, participation in family life, engaging in works prepared for you
- Knowing God expects you to be engaged as a family member, and seen as His child by everyone you are with

So What?

1. Inviting you to Let Your Light Shine with Us

- embracing God's design for us
- imperfect yet glowing together
- intentional about living out the truth you know

2. Inviting you to Shine where you are placed

- in your workplace, community, family, church
- allowing God to use you where He placed you

3. Examine your pattern, begin to make adjustments