


Exposing the deeds of darkness

-by Bro. Sreeram

Ephesians 5:11- Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even  expose them;

God's command to come out of unfruitful deeds of darkness exists even in Old Covenant. But the command to expose darkness is a distinctively new covenant command. It is possible only in the new covenant life. Let us examine how we can expose darkness instead of participating in them.

Take an example of our workplace. We might be surrounded by people who speak evil of their manager. But the scripture commands us to respect and submit to even unreasonable managers. We know every well that all authorities are appointed by God. So now if we stop participating in such disrespectful talks by our colleagues in workplace then we obey God's command to not participate in unfruitful deeds. But how about exposing them? If we take the word literally then we should expose these deeds of darkness by going and complaining about our colleagues to our manager. This is one way to expose them. But this is not what the scripture tells us to do. There is another way to expose ungodly deeds of darkness.

Let me explain this with an illustration. I very well remember a detergent advertisement in India in which all will be wearing white dress. But one of them who washes her dress with this brand of detergent will be seen in a shining white dress. This person just walks around in shining white dress, good enough to win the attention of others. Just by merely looking her shining white dress, people will understand that their white dress is not as white as they think it is. The advertisement will end with people enquiring her about the secret behind her shining white dress.

Now this is the way God wants us to expose the deeds of darkness. By our behavior we should be able to bring a conviction of sin and expose darkness in the worldly people surrounding us. The women in the advertisement does not speak a word but makes others realize that their dress is not pure white. Same way we too can expose the darkness in this world without saying a word by our conduct.

Jesus lived such a life. The Holy Spirit behind his words was convicting the listeners. We see in John chapter 8 that, the Pharisees who had a good external testimony, were convicted by just one line spoken by Jesus. He just told the one with no sins to throw the first stone. This line was enough to convict even the oldest of the religious Pharisee.

Similarly, the Samaritan women in John chapter 4, realized that Jesus was a prophet and a Godly man just by merely conversing with him for a short time. This has always challenged me. Even if I had to converse with a woman with poor external testimony like this Samaritan women, she should be able to recognize that I am a man of God. She should never feel that I am one of those men who try to impress her.

We read that in John 16:8 to 11 that this is the ministry of Holy Spirit to accomplish inside the believers, which is to convict the world around us. Just like Jesus when he lived on this earth lived a life exposing deeds of darkness, we are now called to expose such deeds by living such a higher standard of life. Only if our garments are pure white, we can bring the conviction in the world around us about their impurity. May the Lord help us to live such a higher standard of life where the deeds of darkness are exposed through the convicting ministry of Holy Spirit inside us. Amen.