

Here Paul uses one of his best technics in showing us what we need to stop doing and what we need to start doing. This passage is full of do's and don'ts.

1. Don't involve yourself with bad people – vs. 11 It says not to participate with those people. We define participate as different levels of involvement. Sometimes we are “all the way” involved. Other times we are just on the peripheral side of things and think that gives us a pass. The truth is, if we are involved at any level, we are guilty in God's eyes. 1 Cor. 15:33
  - a. They are unfruitful – That means that it is a waste of time, effort, money, and emotional resources. No one wants to be fruit less or a failure, but that is just what the Bible says. If your actions do not bear fruit, you are a failure. You may have money, houses, cars, and friends, but if your life is unfruitful, you are a failure.
  - b. They are done in the darkness. – This does not mean it has to be at night, but in the shadows of truth and behind closed doors, or with a mist of deceit. We are all guilty of this. Every time we determine to do something evil or wrong, we first look for a way to do the deed undetected. Usually in some form of darkness.
2. Call a spade a spade – vs. 11 We are commanded not to look the other way. So often we believe that it is OK for us to just not make waves and not say something when we see someone doing something wrong. We just look the other way and say it is “none of our business. That is between them and God”. That is a cop out. And I am the biggest offender. Now you take Susan, she will call out anyone, anywhere. But not me. And here Paul is telling us that we need to expose evil for what it is. We need to tell the world when something is wrong. It has only been in the last 15 or 20 years that the church has become outspoken about abortion. When I grew up, things like that were never talked about in church.
3. What people do in the dark is disgraceful – vs. 12 My mother used to say “nothing good ever happens after midnight”. And to a large extent, she was right. I could get into enough trouble before 12, I didn't need to go beyond that. As I look back on my younger years, I can tell you that every time I got into trouble, it was after midnight, even though it started before that. The Bible is clear. What happens in the dark should not be even mentioned. Yet just look at TV. Look and the programming content. It is

despicable what is seen on TV these days. Nothing seems to be sacred anymore. We also see here that not every secret is a good one or one we should keep. I will always ask people when they ask me to keep a secret, “Why are you telling me this secret?” It can’t be good if they want to keep it quiet. Only things that border on gossip are told as secrets.

4. There are no secrets in the light – vs. 13 When you want to see something, turn on a light. I was always told “turn on a light to read, you’ll ruin your eyes!” Even today, I turn on a light when I go into a room and when I want to see better, I get a brighter light. Light exposes not just the darkness for what it is, but also the things in the dark for they are. It allows all to see everything. Nothing can hide from the light. It is only in the darkness that we have secrets. When things are exposed by light, they are seen as they really are. Their true nature comes out. John 3:20-21
5. Stop what you are doing, wake up and let God shine through you – vs.14 The Bible is clear about the command to stop sinning and let the light of the gospel shine in and through us. We cannot do that as long as we are sinning. So Paul quotes scripture here to reinforce this fact. 1 Cor. 15:34
6. Act like you have good sense – vs. 15 We just saw the truth that when we turn the light on and it shines on all our actions, nothing is hidden. So here Paul gives a special warning to be careful on how we act. Everything will be seen by someone and by God. The bottom line is we have got to be better at behaving properly. There seems to be a lack of common sense in the way we act these days. Nothing seems to guide us in our behavior and we just do whatever feels good at the moment. Nothing could be more dangerous. It is the most foolish way to live our lives and we blindly go on like we have everything under control. The problem is that we have control over so little in our lives that it scares us to death if we were to stop and think about it. Just act like you have good sense. It doesn’t take any more energy to do what is right than to do what is wrong.
7. Make every minute count – vs. 16 The days we live in are short. Why? Because God is coming back and we do not know when, but we do know that He is coming and it will be without warning. It will be when we least expect it. So we must make each opportunity count for good and win as many to Christ as possible. Our lives need to reflect the gospel to a dark world. God says here that the “days are evil”. What that means is that there is nothing the world is doing to try to win the lost to Christ. If they are to hear, we must do it. **AMOS 9:11-12**

8. Don't be stupid, find out what God wants you to do - vs. 17 So many times we use the excuse that we are just doing what we are doing until we find out what God really wants us to do. That is crazy. God tells us in James 1 that if "we lack wisdom, we need to ask and He will give it to us. And He will give us all we need." So why are we waiting? It is often because we are afraid that God's will for us will require us to give up something that we hold dear to our hearts. That is why God tells us so many times that we have to die to self and forsake Mother and Father, brother and sister for His sake. We are commanded here to not be as the world and do things with no purpose. God gives us purpose in all that we do. We need only listen and obey. Don't forget that God never asks to do something he does not equip us to do.