

Spirit-Filled Living

December 6, 2020



Open: What are some of the major influences that shape the way you think?

Read & Discuss: Ephesians 5:18-21

1. When Paul says in verse 15 to “look carefully then how you walk,” what might be the difference between walking in an “unwise” way versus a “wise” way? What would it take for us to ensure that we walk as wise people?
2. In what sense are “the days evil” (v. 16b) in a way that has been consistent from the time Paul wrote this through today? Why should that affect how we use our time (v. 16a)? What advice would you give to someone you’re discipling for carrying out Paul’s instructions in verses 15-16?
3. How does being under the impairment of alcohol (or other drugs) affect our speech, behavior and use of time (v. 18)? How might being “filled with the Spirit” affect our speech, behavior and use of time? What direction would you give someone for how to be “filled with the Spirit”?
4. In a practical sense, what do you suppose Paul is telling us to do in verse 19? What do you think that connection might be between verse 18 and verse 19? What good would happen from us doing what Paul tells us to do in verse 19?
5. Verse 20 says we’re to be “giving thanks always and for everything.” What makes striving for such a goal hard to do? What might be the significance of Paul telling us that we’re to give thanks “to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”? How would following the instructions of verses 15-19 help us to have the sort of thankful hearts described here?
6. What would be a practical manifestation of “submitting to one another out of reverence to Christ” (v. 24)? How does “reverence for Christ” empower us to submit to one another? What role does being filled with the Spirit play in this command?

Apply: What would you like to see more of in your life this week based on the encouragement of this passage? What specific changes are you willing to make this week?

Pray: Pray for God to cause us to use our time well this week, daily seeking His will for our lives and daily seeking empowerment from the Spirit to walk in ways that please Him.

This Week: In order to be prepared to disciple someone, spend some time this week filling in the answers for Chapter 7 (pages 27-30) of *Just for Starters*. Then memorize Ephesians 5:18-21.

Ephesians 5:15-21

^[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. ^[18] And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ^[19] addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ^[20] giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ^[21] submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. (ESV)