

April 21/22, 2001

The Truth About Our Life in Christ

A Study in the Book of Ephesians

Spirit-filled Living

Ephesians 5:15-21

Study Questions

Opening Discussion

1. Do you feel that people today are too busy? Why or why not? What are the symptoms?
2. Are *you* too busy? Why or why not?
3. Do you think about “Kingdom building” every day or just when you “plug in” at church? How much time are we investing into things that will not last if we compartmentalize our lives into secular and sacred categories?
4. Have you ever struggled to know God’s will for your life? Share an example. How did you find resolution?

Bible Study

1. Read Ephesians 4:1 - 5:21 to get the flow of the text. Obviously we are still talking about what it means to walk worthy of our calling. What does it mean to walk worthy of our calling in each of these paragraphs we’ve studied? (Summarize each in three words or less)

4:1-6
4:7-16
4:17-24
4:25-5:2
5:3-14
2. Paul says because we are children of light (“therefore”) we should walk “as wise” (5:15). When we do that, we make the most of our time (lit: redeem our time). Paul says the days are evil, meaning the natural bent of culture is to invest in what doesn’t matter. What would “wise living” look like for you on a daily basis? In other words, how can each day be a “Kingdom building” day?
3. There is a difference between God’s known will and His unknown will. His known will is what He’s already communicated as His will for us. Ephesians 5:17 clearly states His will for our lives. If we are unwilling to be obedient to His known will, do you think He will reveal His unknown will to us? Why?

In what ways can we turn God’s will into a selfish pursuit?

4. Compare and contrast what it means to be filled with wine (drunk) and filled with the Spirit. Compare Galatians 5:22-24.

Romans 8:9 clearly states every believer has the Spirit's indwelling. It is not possible to be a believer and not have the Spirit. Therefore, being filled with the Spirit does not mean getting more of the Spirit. It means submitting to the Spirit, who is already fully present in the life of the believer. Compare 5:18 with other passages we've studied in Ephesians already: Ephesians 1:23, 3:19, 4:10, and 4:13.

Is Paul really presenting anything new with this command?

5. The results of being filled with the Spirit are described in verses 19-21. Discuss the implications of each of these in daily living. What evidence is there in your life of the Spirit's filling?

Verse 19: Speaking, singing and making melody

Verse 20: Thankfulness (See Romans 1:21, I Cor. 10:1-11)

6. What do you think it means to "submit" to one another (v. 21)? Does this mean there is no authority structure in the church or the home? What does this say about the proper attitude of those in leadership positions?

Application

1. What practical things can you do to "redeem the time" and make every day count as a "Kingdom building" day? List three.
2. What evidence do you see in your life that you are or are not filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis? What might need to change in your life to walk as the "wise"?
3. Spend time praying for one another that we might each fulfill God's will for our lives by living Spirit-filled lives.