

Contra Mundum

The Full Life
Ephesians 5:15-21
June 7, 2015

Look carefully then how you walk... -Ephesians 5:15

I. WALKING IN WISDOM IN EVIL DAYS (vss. 15-17)

- When Paul speaks of our “walk,” he speaks of our behavior (Eph. 2:1-3; 4:1, 4:17, 5:1, 5:8).
- Wise living includes “redeeming” our time and knowing God’s will (Acts 20:22-24; 2 Thess. 3:6; 2 Tim. 4:6-8).
- We live in evil days. The days have always been evil (Gen. 3; Eccl. 7:20; Rom. 3:10-18).
- Wisdom is proved not in words, but in how we live (Matt. 11:16-19).

II. EMPTY TO FULL (vss. 18-21)

- The full life is a life of contrasts: dark to light, unwise to wise, foolish to understanding, filled with wine to filled with the Spirit (vss. 15-18; Eph. 5:7-14).
- The full life also includes:
 1. Fellowshiping and worshipping together in song –vs. 19
 2. Making “melody” to God in the heart –vs. 19
 3. Being thankful for all that is good in Jesus’ name –vs. 20
 4. Humbly submitting to genuine authority –vs. 21

KNOW: Paul calls us to be filled with the Spirit and gives us practical ways in which a Spirit-filled life is to be lived out. We live in evil days, as the Ephesians did, and we are called to wisdom, not foolishness.

DO: Be filled with the Spirit of Christ.

Suggested Reading:

Keep in Step with the Spirit, by J.I. Packer
Just Do Something, by Kevin DeYoung

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Ephesians 5:15-21

1. Have you noticed yourself growing in wisdom as you’ve walked with Christ? What is changing that seems more wise?
2. What are some time wasters in our culture? Are there practical ways that we can “redeem” the time?
3. What does a Spirit-filled life look like?
4. Why is it so important for us to look carefully to the way we live as Christ followers? Does that mean we’re trying to earn our salvation by good works?
5. Why does the Bible encourage thankfulness so much? What is a person who is thankful like? What does it say about them?
6. Why is submission such a divisive issue today? Why is it so important in the Christian life?