

The Transforming Power of the Holy Spirit

April 15, 2018

Open: What are some things that you're thankful to God for from this past week?

Read: Ephesians 5:15-21

Discuss:

1. Paul starts verse 5 by saying, "look carefully then how you walk." In light of what Paul said prior to this in 5:3-14, what does Paul mean by "how you walk"? Considering what Paul says in verses 15-17, *why* do we need to be careful? How do we know if we're walking carefully?
2. In verse 18, Paul contrasts being drunk with being filled with the Spirit. What do these two have in common? What's different about them?
3. Based on verse 18, what do you think Paul is commanding when he says to "be filled with the Spirit"? How do we go about obeying this command? What other influences besides the Spirit do we sometimes allow to direct us?
4. Verse 19 tells us that as we are filled with the Spirit we will address one another in "spiritual songs." When you engage in corporate worship, do you tend to imagine yourself as singing to God, or to others, or to both? Explain. How would it shape our time of worship together if we view ourselves as not just singing to God, but to each other?
5. Verse 20 indicates that as we are filled the Spirit we will give "thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." How is this different from just being thankful? How can we work to submit ourselves to the Spirit's empowerment in this area?
6. Verse 21 says that as we are filled with the Spirit we will "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." How should reverence for Christ motivate us to submit to one another? What does it look like to submit to one another in a Christ-honoring way?
7. Based on this passage, how would you summarize the reason we're to be filled with the Spirit? The way in which we're to be filled with the Spirit? The effect of being filled with the Spirit?

Apply: Which command in this passage stands out to you as something that you need to seek the Spirit's help to obey? What might obeying this practically look like in your life?

Pray: Pray that we would be a church family who walk with care, in step with the Spirit each day.

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)