



“Under the Influence”

The Church’s Conduct

Ephesians 5:15-21

Being wise suggests a certain :

I. Awareness - “that ye walk circumspectly” (vs. 15-17)

The Holy Spirit makes us aware of our :

- A. Terrain** – “walk circumspectly”
- B. Timing** – “redeeming the time”
- C. Thinking** – “understanding what the will of the Lord is”

II. Ambition – “And be not...but be” (v. 18)

The Holy Spirit empowers our :

- A. Freedom** – “drunk with wine”
- B. Fidelity** - “wherein is excess ”
- C. Functionality** - “filled with the Spirit”

III. Attitude - “Speaking to yourselves ” (vs. 19-21)

The Holy Spirit changes our attitude about :

- A. Singing** – “making melody ...to the Lord”
- B. Satisfaction** – “giving thanks always for all things”
- C. Submission** – “submitting yourselves ”

Sentence Sermon:

“The Church is people who are soberly seizing opportunities God gives them.”

Additional Verses

- **James 1:5**
- **Ephesians 2:10**
- **Colossians 1:9-10**
- **Galatians 1:14; 5:16; 22-23**
- **I Corinthians 3:19**
- **Acts 2:13**
- **Psalms 40:3**
- **Colossians 3:15-16**
- **I Peter 4:12-19**
- **James 3:15-17; 4:13-17**

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. What does it mean to walk as fools? How does that compare and contrast to walking in darkness?
- 2. How can a church redeem the time?
- 3. How does verse 17 seem to define being wise?
- 4. In what context is the drinking wine brought up?
- 5. According to verse 19, is it scripturally correct to be “Hymns Only?” (cp. Colossians 3:15-16)

- 6. Who is mentioned at the end of verses 19, 20, and 21? What does this tell you about the filling of the Holy Spirit?

INTRO:

Ephesians is written to the Church

This passage contains the last “walk”

Exegesis:

V. 15

- See then = based on the rest of the walks and the last couple of verses ...he gets down to brass tacts.
- That ye walk circumspectly= walk around carefully...with attention to detail or accuracy
 - It speaks of the way you conduct and order your life and lifestyle.
- Not as fools= unwise or foolish...ignorance of information and unskillful in constructive behavior
- But as wise= skillful use of knowledge for constructive purposes

V. 16

- Redeeming = “to buy up at the market place”
 - Chinese adage concerning opportunity speaks of it having a handle on the front that can be seized only when you meet it, it is too late once it is no longer in front of you.
- The time = brevity of opportunity

- Because the days are evil= are currently being used for all kinds of godless purposes

V. 17

- Wherefore be ye not unwise = folly in action
- But understanding = to bring things together and see the overall picture of what God is doing
- What the will of the Lord is = making use of our intellectual and reasoning power to put together the comprehensive plan of God

V. 18

- **And be not = Third time** a not used = indicates to “stop being drunk” It assumes you are drinking and so I have to assume some of you here are drinking ...
- Drunk with wine = a slave to the wine
- **Wherein is excess** = “extravagantly squandering your means” on something and with someone who can not save or spare you...It speaks of religious celebrations to false gods that include debauchery and senseless activities which were believed to give special powers and abilities.
 - **What is excess? Possibly any at all?!**
 - **Negative s of Alcohol Use**
 - **Disease**
 - Cancer
 - Pancreas

- Liver
- Hypertension
- Insomnia
- Heart problems

- **Legal Problems**

- Domestic Violence
- Work related issues
- DUI

- **Morality**

- Immorality – almost every situation of sexual immorality in 30 years of ministry that I have dealt with...involved alcohol use
- Lying
- Performance
- Punctuality

- **Children**

- Pregnancy
- DUI
- Supervision
- Early use of Alcohol

➤ But = An opposite option...can not do both...one is not recommended...exchange is encouraged

➤ Be filled with the Spirit = “controlled by the Spirit” filled is not a measurement of volume but a measure of control.

➤ NOTE: ACTS 2:13 – Disciples were accused of being full of wine...this notes:

- The filling of the Holy Spirit:
 - Makes you happy
 - Gets you noticed
 - Gives you boldness/confidence
 - Promotes the Word getting out

V. 19

- Speaking to your selves = Interacting with others
 - With:
 - Psalms = Scripture designed to be put to music
 - Hymns = Doctrinal teaching songs of old
 - Spiritual songs = music that contributes to spiritual growth and edification
- *Singing and making melody*
 - *In your heart*
 - *To the Lord.*

NOTE: Music in church is for two purposes...It is aimed at your fellow believer and at the Lord.

V. 20

- Giving thanks = to recognize the presence and goodness of God (Some on facebook Bible study

were thinking that Thanksgiving was pagan and should not be observed...They also held that Swartzeneger and Gibson were numerically identified as the antichrists).

- Always
- For all things
 - Unto God and the Father
 - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

V. 21

- Submitting yourselves = honoring others...placing yourself underneath another...humility
 - One to another = everyone does the submitting...not just some but all
- In the fear of God = being sensitive to God's will...realizing the possibility that the person in front of you could be God's messenger sent to warn, encourage, inform, mature, or challenge you.
- To be continued in next week's passage on family.