

Episode #3-12 – Ephesians 5 Part 3: Walk Wisely

I. In Ephesians 1-3, the Holy Spirit revealed to us all the glorious things that are true of us “in Christ.” Now, in Ephesians 4-6, we are told of the “worthy walk” that we should live in love and gratitude to God for the glorious position we have received.

II. In Ephesians 5:1-14, we learned that we are urged to imitate God and to walk in love, as well as to walk in the light. We should also bear the fruit of the light. Those who are in darkness do shameful things, but the light enlightens all. We should not sleep, but we should rise from among the dead and live our lives in the light. Now, we go on to learn of walking wisely.

III. Walk as wise ones. The third specific way we are to walk as part of the “worthy walk.”

- A. Ephesians 5:15. Walk accurately as wise ones. We need to constantly be observing accurately our own behavior, and assuring that it is according to God’s wisdom as revealed in His Word, not according to the foolish and morally corrupt lifestyles of those around us. God desires us to check our own walks against His Word, and we need to be doing this, not counting on someone else to let us know if we are off track. We each need to keep a tight rein on our own behavior!
- B. Ephesians 5:16. We need to redeem or buy up every opportunity we have to act in Godly ways. It is a shame every time an opportunity to act for God arises, and we fail to act on it. Often times, those circumstances are never repeated. Every opportunity we have to please God, we should use it! The days we live in are wicked, and so such opportunities are not unlimited. We must do the good for God we can while we can.
- C. Ephesians 5:17. This is another example of something we should “put off” and “put on”: put off imprudence (or being unwise), and put on understanding the Lord’s will.
 1. One thing the believer in Christ needs is to understand what the Lord’s will is.
 2. Many are imprudent regarding this!
 3. How do we understand this? It does not come from guessing, or from looking for signs or omens. The Word of God is our only, true source for knowing the Lord’s will. How can you ever know His specific will for your own life, when you do not even know His general will for all believers today? We need to come to an understanding of His current plan, as the first three chapters of Ephesians have already taught us.
 4. When we understand God’s dispensation for today, we can be wise about His will.
- D. Ephesians 5:18. Another example of “putting off” the old man and “putting on” the new: put off drunkenness, and put on being filled with the Spirit.
 1. Drunkenness puts you out of control, and instead you are being controlled by the alcohol. Being Spirit-filled, however, puts you in the control of the Lord’s Spirit. This is what we want to be controlled by, not alcohol or drugs.
 2. In the past, when people were filled with the Spirit, they spoke inspired words, followed God’s lead to do just what He wanted, and worked miracles. How are we to be filled today? By being filled with the Word of God, the Bible. When this is incorporated into our minds and inner beings, we start naturally living the Spirit’s way, and His thoughts start to control us. We may not work miracles, but the outcome of a changed life is every bit as miraculous!
- E. Ephesians 5:19. This too is part of being controlled by the Spirit. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs: can be straight out of Scripture.

1. We “speak” Psalms, as the music is lost (unless we make new music up).
 2. Hymns is not a style of music, but means a sacred song of praise.
 3. Spiritual songs are God-created songs, so means songs with words directly from Scripture or directly based on the truths of Scripture. Only one well-versed in the Bible in his mind and heart could write spiritual songs.
 4. While we sing with our mouths, it is the melody of our hearts that is to the Lord. That is, as love and praise and admiration flow from our hearts while we sing, this is what pleases the Lord, not the outward performance.
- F. Ephesians 5:20. This is more of being filled with the Spirit. We should be giving thanks for all things to God the Father in the name (character) of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1. An attitude of thankfulness is wise and right.
 2. Failure to be thankful is one of the first steps away from God, according to Romans 1:21.
 3. It is very important that we be thankful to God for all He has done for us. When we start to be ungrateful and think he owes us, our hearts start moving away from Him. A Spirit-filled person will be thankful.
- G. Ephesians 5:21. The final point of being filled with the Spirit: submitting ourselves to one another in the fear of Christ.
1. “One another” is talking about other believers. One of our duties as part of our worthy walk today is to put ourselves in subjection to one another. Submission is something that God wants us to be skilled at. It is not our place to lord it over each other!
 2. The Greek “submitting” = *hupotassomenoi*, *hupo* = under, *tasso* = arrange. The normal way of the world is to try to get control over others and take the superior position. The Lord’s way is to arrange yourself under others to serve them, even as Christ the Lord served His Own disciples. This is why we do this in the fear of Christ. Our respect for Him and His ways makes us willing to take the subservient place. He, the greatest One of all, served us, so we are willing to serve one another. Let us never forget that this is the Christ-like attitude!
 3. The result of this would be that all are equal in the sight of God and each other. There is great truth in this! However, this is just the summary. The following verses show us that there are situations where submission is particularly appropriate. It is not that we don't need to submit to anyone's authority. Verse 21 does not define the following verses, nor do the following verses define verse 21. As believers, we all should submit to one another. Yet there are situations wherein one believer particularly needs to submit to another, as the following verses show.

IV. Conclusion: The worthy walk is the response Christ looks for after all He has done for us. He wishes us to walk in love, as children of light, and as wise. That means taking every opportunity we have to serve Him in these wicked days. We should understand His will, avoid drunkenness, speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, give thanks to God, and submit to one another. Let us take every opportunity we have to live wisely!