

May 24 Discussion Questions

“The Spirit-Filled Church”

Ephesians 5:15-21

Review

The Caution:

- Beware of **Deception** and **Distraction** (v. 15-17)

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." Eph. 5:15-18

The Command:

- **Surrender** all you are to Jesus (v. 18)

"Be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ." Eph. 5:18-21

The Characteristics of a Spirit-Filled Church:

1. Speaking **Worshipfully** (v. 19a; 1 Cor. 14:26)
2. Singing **Passionately** (v. 19b)
3. Living **Gratefully** (v. 20)
4. Loving **Submissively** (v. 21)

Connect

1. Share a time when you were filled with sudden and unexpected emotion. (It could be joy, peace, anger, or grief.) How did your emotions influence the way you responded?
2. What do you think it means to be “filled with the Spirit?” How does this “filling” influence the way you respond to sudden and unexpected challenges?

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

Discuss

3. The word “then” in v.15 refers to a connecting theme in the previous verses. How does the paragraph before lead Paul into v.15?
4. V.15 challenges us to be introspective people who look carefully at how we walk. Are you a naturally introspective person? What does it look like to do a spiritual self-diagnostic?

5. What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge? Which is more valuable?
6. What does it look like for you to “make the best use of the time?” Is this the same as living as if it’s your last day on earth? Do you feel challenged to radically change priorities, to love others better, or to be more gutsy in your Christian witness?
7. Paul challenges us to understand the will of the Lord. How do you determine the will of the Lord? How often do you feel directed by God’s specific and personal will for you to do something? Do you desire to be personally led this way more often?
8. How is being filled with the Spirit similar to being filled with wine?
9. What does it look like to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ?” How is this different from what our culture does?

Apply

10. If you knew you had one week left to live, how would you live differently? Should this sudden urgency influence your present lifestyle? How so?
11. What is the next thing God is directing you to do? Does it require a level of faith that makes you feel fearful or uncomfortable?
12. Do you need to experience a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit? What can you do this week to position yourself to receive this?
13. In response to the Bible’s command to “submit to one another,” what is a relationship in which you need to increase your humility? How does that get fleshed out for you?

Pray

14. Pray for God to give each of you a special time this week to pursue a fresh filling of His Holy Spirit. Pray that coming out of that God would give you a clear sense of His will.

Weekly Prayer Focus from Prayer Team

Personal: Pray we would be obedient to surrender everything to Jesus and be transformed in our speech, hearts, attitudes and relationships. *Be filled with the Spirit.* Ephesians 5:18b

Ministry: Please prayerfully remember, with profound gratitude, the immense price hundreds of thousands of soldiers have paid for the sake of our political and religious freedoms.