

Uniting

ALL THINGS
IN CHRIST

an Ephesians study

HUB GROUP NOTES | OCTOBER 3, 2021 David Newkirk

ICEBREAKER: If you feel comfortable, share with the group an unwise moment in your life. This might be a moment that made you laugh, feel embarrassed, or maybe even cringe afterwards.

Read Ephesians 5:15-21 together.

1. What is the “therefore” in verse 15 there for?

2. Paul makes three distinctions to the church in the form of contrasts in verses 15-18. What are the three things Paul is contrasting?

Leaders Note: We get a very clear sense of what to do and what not to do. Verse 15 - *not as unwise, but as wise*; Verse 17 - *do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is*; Verse 18 - *do not get drunk with wine . . . but be filled with the Spirit*. Verse 15 is the premise - both understanding the will of the Lord and being filled with the Spirit are virtues that all Christians should be working towards.

3. In verse 16, Paul says “taking advantage of every opportunity.” How do you make a habit of taking advantage of your time?

4. Paul contrasts foolishness with “understanding the will of God.” How do you understand the will of God? How does this combat foolishness?

Leaders Note: In order to understand the will of God, you need to know the Word of God. “*Be filled by the Spirit*” is a present tense verb. This implies that being filled is not a one-time occurrence. We must constantly be filled. It happens moment by moment. Paul does not make this a suggestion. It is imperative. If we are to live as God wishes, we simply cannot do it apart from being filled. Therefore, Paul does not suggest, or even exhort; he commands. Finally, this command is in the passive voice. That tells us that we cannot fill ourselves. God is the one who grants the filling. He graciously gives us His Spirit. We are passive recipients of His filling and it is to all believers.

5. Think about this: we are commanded to do something we cannot do. What does this tell you about the Christian life?

Leaders Note: By commanding us to do something we cannot do, He is leading us to greater dependence on Him. We see that we can't do what He has commanded. Just as we could not save ourselves from sin, neither can we manufacture in our own power a wise life, a like that can please Him. He must intervene.

6. According to verses 19-21, what characterizes a person who is filled by the Spirit?

7. Where do you presently see the greatest need to experience God's empowering presence in your life?

2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people - the Nyamwezi - by 2030.