



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Walk in Wisdom

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The setting is a Roman prison (60-62 A.D.) and Paul is addressing the established Christian (mostly Gentile) church in Ephesus where he was a pastor for several years. In this letter, Paul counters the false teachings that had started to plague the church and additionally provides encouragement and instruction in sound doctrine. While the first three chapters deal with doctrine, the church and the spiritual blessings in Christ, in the last three chapters Paul describes responsibilities of the Christian life. In the fifth chapter of Ephesians, Paul shares that Christians should be imitators of God; walking in love, light and wisdom. (Ephesians 5:1-21) NASB

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is (5:15-17).

Walk in wisdom. Paul shares that believers are to walk in wisdom and not as unwise (foolish) people. *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Prov.1:7)* A wise man fears God, seeks and walks according to God's will in love, goodness, righteousness and truth (5:7-9). A fool is one who lives apart from God, becomes his own god, speaks on his own authority, and mocks sin (Prov.14:9). Additionally, Paul encourages believers to make the most of the time that God allows them to be on earth (Ps. 90) and to make the most of the opportunities that are presented. Lost opportunities may never be regained, they are gone forever. What are Christians to avoid?

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; (5:18-19)

Be filled with the Spirit. Although Scripture consistently condemns drunkenness, the passage in context suggests that Paul is talking about the pagan drunken orgies worship that could have spilled over and influenced the Christian worship in the Ephesian church. Paul directs the church to refrain from that kind of worship and rather "be filled with the Spirit" worship. Paul shares that the Christians should be under the influence (control) of the Holy Spirit. In chapter 6:18, Paul directs that believers should pray (communion with God) about all things at all time in the Spirit; which is living continually in the conscious presence and communion with God. Christians are to put off the old self and put on the new self, which will be reflected in their walk and worship. How, additionally, will that be exhibited in the life of a Christian?

always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ. (5:20-21)

In the name of Jesus. Evidence of being filled with the Spirit is an attitude of thankfulness to God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The filling of the Spirit produces a life of thankfulness so that we can truthfully thank God for all things. Additionally, being subject (submitting) to one another reflects a filling of the Spirit. Being subject to one another is an attitude of service, humility, and order rather than inequality.

For Your Consideration:

- Do you fear God, seek and walk according God's will in love, goodness, righteousness and truth?
- Does your walk and worship reflect a spirit filled life?
- Do you have an attitude of thankfulness for all things?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS (SESSION OR HEARING DAYS) AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44

STATE STAFF AND LOBBYISTS: WEDNESDAYS AT 12:10PM, STATEHOUSE ROOM 44