

# **Walking in Wisdom**

**Ephesians 5:15-21**

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**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, 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.**

# Wisdom

- **Experiencing God's Presence**
- **Learning God's Ways**
- **Knowing the right interpretation of a circumstance. Thought!**
- **Knowing the right thing to do in life. Action!**
- **Knowing the right way to do it. Manner!**
- **Understanding and living life from God's perspective**

## **Stephen Merritt wrote:**

**“Cease meddling with God's plans and will. You touch anything of His, and you mar the work. You may move the hands of a clock to suit you, but you do not change the time; so you may hurry the unfolding of God's will, but you harm and do not help the work. You can open a rosebud but you spoil the flower. Leave all to Him. Hands down. Thy will, not mine.”**

# Walking in Wisdom

- **Say no to the world.**
- **Say yes to God.**
- **Share God with others.**

# 1. Wisdom in relation to the World

- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16).
- “Look carefully” or “walk circumspectly” or “Get it right!”

# 1. Wisdom in relation to the World

- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16).
- “Making the best” or “redeeming the time”
- Redeem: “to pay the price to recover something from the power of another”

# 1. Wisdom in relation to the World

- “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil” (Eph. 5:15-16).
- “Days are evil” – We are not on neutral ground.
- There are moral and spiritual landmines all around us.

**How should you walk through a field where you know there are landmines in it?**

**Answer #1: I must urge you to not attempt to walk anywhere where there are suspected to be land mines. That being said, I think being last in a long single file line of people would probably be the way to get across while minimizing the risk to oneself.**

**How should you walk through a field where you know there are landmines in it?**

**Answer #2: You shouldn't. No seriously, don't. No matter how good you think you are... If you had to enter a minefield, there are various techniques ... Clearing with mine detectors, wearing mine shoes, probing, explosive breaching, following the footsteps of the person in front of you, but none of these are foolproof and none should be attempted by an untrained person.**

# How should you walk through a field where you know there are landmines in it?

**Answer #3: There is no fool-proof safe way to walk through a minefield...**

**Mine Detectors - Some mines are extremely hard to detect with mine detectors since they are not made of metal.**

**Probing - Some mines may be buried deeply and missed by probing.**

**Explosive Breaching - Certain models of mines are designed specifically to be resistant to explosive clearing.**

**Following the footsteps of person in front of you – They may trigger a bounding mine or a fragmentation mine.**

**Wearing Mine Shoes - They offer only limited protection from the smallest mines.**

# **How do you walk through the spiritual minefield of this world?**

- Get it right! Be careful!**
- Redeem the days fully!**
- Don't take the evil in the world lightly!**

## **2. Wisdom in relation to God**

- “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. 5:17-18).**
- “Have no fellowship with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them ... everything exposed by the light becomes visible” (Eph. 5:11-13).**

# An Understanding Heart

- **“I have given them Your word and the world has hated them; for they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:14-17).**
- **Expose the false “wisdom” of the world by letting in the true wisdom of God.**

## **2. Wisdom in relation to God**

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# Walk, Talk, and Thought

- **“Wine is a mocker, beer a brawler. whoever is led astray by them is not wise” (Prov. 20:1).**
- **“Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled by the Spirit.”**
- **When you are drunk your walk is different, your talk is different, your thinking is different.**
- **When you are filled with the Spirit your walk is different, your talk is different, your thinking is different.**

# **“Be filled by the Spirit”**

- The verb is a command: This is God’s will for every Christian.**
- The verb is passive: To be filled with the Spirit is God’s work and not yours.**
- The verb is continuous action: You and I must seek the filling of the Spirit daily.**
- “Spirit” means personality, God Himself. We do not “feel” a person – we know a person.**

# What does it mean to be filled with God?

- **“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind” (2 Tim. 1:7)**
- **“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual” (1 Cor. 2:12-13).**

# How to be filled by the Spirit

- **Accept that to be filled with the Spirit is God's will for you.**
- **Confess your sins as the Spirit convicts you.**
- **Accept His cleansing of your sins through Christ.**
- **Surrender your heart and life to God, ask Him to fill you with His Spirit.**

### **3. Wisdom in relation to others**

- **“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. 5:19-21).**

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- **Uplifting speech, meaningful worship, cooperative service**

# Walking in wisdom means

- We do not think like the world.
- We see life through the lens of God's Word.
- We listen to the leadership of the Spirit.
- We are being transformed into the spiritual likeness of Christ.
- We relate meaningfully and redemptively to one another.

# **The result of the filling of the Spirit**

- **There is a dramatic change in our thinking.**
- **Our prayer life is enriched.**
- **The Word of God becomes personal.**
- **We sense God's leadership in our lives.**
- **We have life and peace.**
- **We know Christ better and deeper.**
- **We bear the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance or sound mind.**
- **We have a new effectiveness in service.**