

LIVING IN WISDOM AND SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:15-21

INTRODUCTION: Paul calls us to live from Christ's finished work, not striving for acceptance but expressing our new identity. Filled with the Spirit, we are invited into wisdom, worship, gratitude, and humble love that flow from grace already given in Jesus.

I. WALK IN THE NEWNESS OF CHRIST *vv.15-17*

A. Look carefully how you walk. *v.15*

1. You are not walking insecurely as an unbeliever, but confidently as a child of God. *Romans 8:16*
2. As a citizen of heaven you now refuse the foolish ways of the world and embrace the wisdom of God. *Philippians 3:20*
3. Our new conduct is in response to the grace extended to us. *Titus 2:11-12*

B. Make the best use of time. *v.16*

1. Each day we are given is a gift from God that we are called to steward well. *James 4:14*
2. Making best use of our time is not found in frantic striving.
3. Because of Christ in us, our daily efforts remain productive in the midst of evil. *1 Corinthians 15:10*

C. Understand God's will. *v.17*

1. God's will has first been accomplished in us when we said "yes" to Jesus.

2. It is God's will to always be for us and never against us. *Romans 8:31, Hebrews 12:1*
3. Living within God's will is easily accomplished by yielding to the Holy Spirit. *Galatians 5:16*

II. BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT v.18

A. Don't let the old life control you.

1. The world offers various forms of fullness which never truly satisfy. *John 4:13-14, Psalm 34:8*
2. Recognize that debauchery contradicts our new identity in Jesus. *v.18*
3. We now live a life free from any sort of fleshly domination. *1 Corinthians 10:13*

B. Be filled with the Spirit. v.18

1. We've been given the great and precious promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us.
2. We now surrender wholly unto the One who gives us an inexhaustive supply of power, promises and provision. *Ephesians 3:20*
3. He empowers us to live according to the new creation we are now in Christ. *Romans 8:11*

C. Let the Spirit reveal the new you.

1. He will bring revelation to you through the Word of God, through others, and an inward witness. *John 14:26*
2. He begins to change your desires from works of darkness to works of light. *Philippians 2:13 NLT*
3. He shows you to be worthy because of your faith in Christ and will flow through you. *Colossians 1:12*

III. EXPRESS YOUR NEW LIFE WITH OTHERS vv.19-21

A. The Spirit leads us into community. v.19

1. We find opportunity to gather with other believers for a time of mutual encouragement. *1 Corinthians 14:26*
2. This encouragement comes through the presentation of songs and scriptures. v.19, *Psalms 22:3*
3. We sing to the Lord together in a time of heartfelt worship. *1 Corinthians 14:15*

B. Always give thanks for everything. v.20

1. The Holy Spirit will remind us of the things for which we are to be thankful. *1 Corinthians 2:12*
2. We refuse to take God's goodness for granted. *James 1:17*
3. This is not intended to be an occasional time of thanksgiving but should be at the forefront of our gatherings. v.20

C. Submit to one another. v.21

1. We submit from the position of recognizing who we are in Christ.
Philippians 2:3-5
2. By submitting to one another, we are honoring the body of Christ.
Ephesians 4:15-16
3. As we recognize Christ's love for us, the natural outflow is that we now demonstrate love toward one another. *1 John 4:19*

CONCLUSION: Because of Christ's finished work, we can walk wisely, be filled continually with the Spirit, and live in joyful community. We are not striving to become accepted; we are expressing who we already are in Him. So yield to the Spirit, give thanks, love one another, and shine as children of light.