



# GROWING SPIRITUALLY

Lesson 4: Living a Spirit Filled Life

# Last week's lesson: 1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- “The World” is everything that is opposed to God.
  - ▣ Do not oppose God
  - ▣ Do not be ruled by the things of this world
  - ▣ Do not befriend the world
- Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
- Be aware of and control your cravings:
  - ▣ of the “flesh” – natural desires
  - ▣ of the “eye” – material desires
  - ▣ and our “pride” – boasting and arrogance

# Today's Text

- Today's lesson is taken from Ephesians 5:1-21
  - Specifically vs 18 "Do not get drunk on wine"...
  - A Contrast of Two Lifestyles
    - The Wine-Filled Life
    - The Spirit-Filled Life
  - How Are We Filled With The Spirit?
  - Holy Evidence of a Spirit-Filled Life
  - Hindrances to a Spirit-Filled Life
  - Memory Verse

# Eph 5:1-6

- Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person — such a man is an idolater — has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. NIV

# Be imitators of God

- vs 1-2: Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- Growing spiritually means to imitate God (vs 1)
  - To partake in his divine nature
  - To become more like Jesus
- Live a life of love (vs 2)
- Do not forget the cross (vs 2)

# Eph 5:3-6

- How would you know if a person is filled with wine?
  - His behavior would include the things listed in this passage such as:
    - sexual immorality, any kind of impurity, greed (vs 3)
    - obscenity, foolish talk, coarse joking (vs 4)
  - He would be engaged in behavior that is:
    - improper for God's holy people (vs 3)
    - out of place (vs 4)
    - deceitful (vs 6)
    - disobedient (vs 6)

*“because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient”*

# Our speech is important

- vs 4 - Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving
- What we say is very important:
  - Eph 4:25 – Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.
  - Eph 4:29 – Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
  - Matt 15:18 – But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

# The Wine Filled Life

- One is filled with wine not by one drink, but by continually drinking.
- A wine-filled life is lived under the influence, the control of wine.
- The wine-filled life displays itself in ungodly behavior: violence, vulgarity, abusive speech, etc.
- There is nothing in the wine-filled life that has any right in the life of a Christian.

# Eph 5:7-12

- 7 Therefore do not be partners with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

# Eph 5:7-12

- How would you know if a person is filled with the Spirit?
  - He is not partners (a partaker or participant) with those who are disobedient (vs 7)
  - He is living “in the light” and his behavior would include:
    - all goodness, righteousness and truth (vs 8)
  - He is about finding out what pleases the Lord (vs 10)
  - He exposes disobedient behavior (vs 11)
  - He does not discuss what the disobedient do (vs 12)

# Example:

- The appointing of seven men to oversee the benevolence of the church required that they be men filled with the Spirit. (Acts 6:3)
  - Acts 6:1-4 - 1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." NIV
- How would you know which seven to pick?

# Example:

- Barnabas, a great servant of the church is described as a man full of the Spirit. (Acts 11:24)
  - Acts 11:22-24 - 22 News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. NIV
- What is it about the lives of these people that confirmed they were under the influence of the Spirit?

# Eph 5:15-18

- 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. NIV
- There is a warning in this passage: “be careful how you live” (vs 15)
- Every day includes exposure to what is evil (vs 16); (remember “The World” that is everything that is opposed to God)
- So don’t be foolish, understand what the Lord’s will is (vs 17); (get into the Word)

# “Debauchery” defined

- The wine filled life leads to “debauchery” (vs 18)
  - Debauchery means unrestrained self-indulgent immoral behavior
  - NKSV & NASU uses “dissipation” - overindulgence in the pursuit of physical pleasures
  - KJV uses “excess”
  - ASV uses “riot”
- The Greek word that is used here is “asootía” which is a negative particle for “sozo” (to save), so the intended meaning is: to behave the opposite of how you would if you were saved (unsavedness).

# Eph 5:18-21

- 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. 19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. NIV

# The Spirit Filled Life

- What other kinds of behavior should we see in those who are filled with the Spirit?
  - We should sing to one another (vs 19)
  - We should make “music in our heart” (vs 19)
  - Give thanks for everything in the name of Jesus (vs 20)
  - Submit to one another (vs 21)
- Our life is to be lived under his holy influence, his control.
- We are filled with the Spirit by continually allowing the Spirit to influence every area of our life.
- We are placing our life under his control.

# Summary:

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

- The wine filled life causes us to behave as though we have not been saved.
- The wine filled life is engaged in behavior that is improper for God's holy people.
- In contrast, the Spirit filled life is lived in the light and includes: all goodness, righteousness and truth.
- Do not to be partners with those who are disobedient.
- Make your speech that which is wholesome.
- Be about finding out what pleases the Lord.



Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory verse: Eph 5:19-20