

Dear Church (Part 13)
"This Little Light of Mine?" [Eph. 5:3-21]
July 23, 2017
Pastor Bill Bowers

1. **THE CONDUCT TEST** (verse 15)

QUESTION: ARE YOU CAREFUL AND WISE IN YOUR BEHAVIOR?

2. **THE TIME TEST** (verse 16)

QUESTION: ARE YOU DISCIPLINED AND DISCERNING IN THE WAY YOU SPEND YOUR TIME?

"For every achievement there is a price; for every goal there is an opponent; For every victory there is a problem; for every triumph there is a sacrifice" (Source unknown)

3. **THE DECISION TEST** (verse 17)

QUESTION: ARE YOU ACTIVELY AND CORRECTLY PURSUING THE WILL OF YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

4. **THE CONTROL TEST** (verse 18-20)

QUESTION: ARE YOU LIVING YOUR LIFE UNDER THE INFLUENCE AND CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Martin Lloyd Jones: *"The spirit filled life is not be measured by ones private morality or even by ones private spiritual experience, but by how one conducts themselves with other persons."*

5. **THE SUBMISSION TEST** (verse 21)

QUESTION: ARE YOU DELIBERATELY AND OFTEN FINDING WAYS TO SERVE OTHERS?

Martin Lloyd Jones: *"The spirit filled life is not be measured by ones private morality or even by ones private spiritual experience, but by how one conducts themselves with other persons."*

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HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- Eph. 5:3 reads "But among you there must not be even a hint of..." to which the apostle goes on to name a litany of moral offenses. How do you think we are to interpret "hint of" in terms of practical application? Does this interpretation seem a bit legalistic to you and/or unreasonable? What do you think is the value as it pertains to virtue and holiness?
- Why do you think Paul equates greed with idolatry? (Eph. 5:5) Why do you think he specifies the immoral, impure, and/or greedy person in these following terms: "has any (no) inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God" What would you describe as immoral? Impure? Greedy? Please discuss and explain your responses in detail.
- The NLT version Eph. 5:6 strongly instructs, "Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins..." How does this make you feel? Consider disagreements about Christian behavior in the universal Christian church. Consider culture at large (mass media, entertainment, etc.)
- Pastor Bill instructed us to consider our behavior by examining whether we were being careful and wise in our decision-making. How do you grade yourself? How do you feel about your grade? What can you do to improve your score? (Eph. 5:15)
- Eph. 5:16 exhorts us, "Make the most of every opportunity..." We were reminded by Pastor Bill to practice discipline and discernment in the ways we spend our time. Would you say you are disciplined and discerning? Do you feel like you rarely have enough time to do the things you feel inspired to do? Are you satisfied with the margin in your life? Explain your answers.
- We were asked in Sunday's teaching, "Are you actively and correctly pursuing the will of your heavenly Father?" The apostle Paul phrases the same with these words, "Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do." (Eph. 5:17) How do you respond? What do you think is the "will of God" for your life? Do you think God's will for you is a over-arching will or do you think God is interested in directing all the "steps of your life?" How do you go about finding out the answers to this "will" or way of living and walking in God's Presence?
- What do you think living under the influence and the control of the Holy Spirit means? How does one truly live this way and still function in a practical daily life (working, playing, daily chores and life responsibilities)?
- Serving others requires time, energy, and sometimes money; there are infinite opportunities to serve and give. How does one know how, when, and where to invest? (Eph. 5:21)