

EPHESIANS STUDY WEEK 8

Ephesians 5:15-6:9

This is like part 2 of becoming imitators of Jesus! Paul begins in verse 15 talking about wisdom and making the most of our time here on earth. We have a mission, to share the gospel with as many people as we can! Then in verse 22 he gets right to the point, and focuses on our home. If we cannot share the love of Jesus and live Christlike in our homes, then we will not be successful in the world. What does it look like to love your spouse? What does it look like to obey and honor your parents? What does it look like to honor and be Christlike in the workplace? Paul answers all of this and more!

We use the NLT translation for the study

*****Read Ephesians 5:15 - 6:9*****

MAKING GOOD CHOICES

Read the following verses below, list 4 criteria God gives us to help make good choices. Answers are below.

- **Ephesians 5:15 _____**
 - **Unwise or wise?**
 - Wisdom relates to our knowledge of Christ. Here Paul is telling us to make choices that tie in with our knowledge of God, God's character and God's purpose; While the world searches for enlightenment through its own mind, the Christian has received and continues to receive wisdom from God in Christ and it is this wisdom that acts as the filter affirming or rejecting the choices that confront us.
 - Read the following
 - 1 Corinthians 2:6-16
 - Colossians 1:9
 - Colossians 2:3
 - Colossians 3:16
 - James 3:13-18

- **Ephesians 5:16 _____**
 - **Make the most of the moment**

- We should live with expectancy and urgency because Jesus is coming back soon! Eternity is a stake! There are people all around us who need to hear the gospel of Jesus!
- Read the following
 - Colossians 4:5
 - 1 Peter 4:7
 - Romans 13:11-14
- **Ephesians 5:17** _____
 - **Don't act thoughtlessly**
 - God has revealed his will to us: he has given us clear commands; he has laid down all-embracing principles; he has given us an example of the perfect human life in Jesus Christ. He has demonstrated in the death of Christ how horrific sin and its consequences are. He has left us with no excuse for our foolish, sinful choices. All we need to do is to govern our all of choices by his commands that are clearly stated in the Scriptures
 - Read the following
 - Romans 12:2
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-12
 - **What is Sanctification?**
 - Being made Holy, it's the process of learning and growing and living like Jesus. The Holy Spirit works in us and makes us more and more like Jesus.
 - Romans 8:29
- **Ephesians 5:18** _____
 - **Be filled with the Holy Spirit**
 - Paul contrasts getting drunk to being filled with the Holy Spirit. One produces a temporary buzz and the other produces lasting joy. Getting drunk is associated with the old self, a selfish and sinful desire. In Jesus, we have everything we need, and do not need a substance to help us feel good or take the edge off. We should not be concerned with how much Holy Spirit "we have". But focus on how much of us the Holy Spirit has. Submit yourself daily and do not give into temptation.
 - Read the following
 - Colossians 3:15-17
 - John 14:15-18,
 - Romans 13:13
 - 1 Corinthians 5:11

Remember in the beginning of the chapters when Paul calls us to be imitators of God! Just as kids imitate their dads, we are to imitate God! Throw off the old self and put on the new self! Use these 4 criteria to help you become like Jesus!

DAILY FILLED... WHATS THAT LOOK LIKE?

Verse 18 ends with saying “but be filled with the spirit”, and then lists ways this comes out in our lives. Read Ephesians 5:19-21 list expressions of being 'filled with the Spirit'.

- **Sing/ Make Music (Verse 19)**
 - When God is the centre of our lives there will be a deep joy within us! And that joy is contagious and we gotta let it out! And it does not have to sound good... make a joyful noise, in tune or out of tune!
 - Read the following verses
 - Colossians 3:16
 - Psalm 4:7
 - Psalm 35:9
 - Isaiah 61:10
 - Habakkuk 3:18
 - Philippians 4:4
 - 1 Peter 1:8
- **Give thanks (Verse 20)**
 - Paul states that the person being filled with God's Spirit will always be giving thanks to the Father, concerning everything, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you feel down, you may have a hard time giving thanks. But know this, in all things God works for our good!
 - Thank God, not for your problems, but for what He is doing through them. Thank God for building your character and strength and never leaving you!
 - Read the following verses
 - Romans 1:8
 - Psalm 9:1
 - Psalm 106:1
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- **Submit to one another (Verse 21)**
 - The idea of 'submitting' to others evokes an automatic negative reaction in most of us. Our original sin in Genesis 3 displayed a refusal to submit to

God and at the same time the promotion of what we perceived to be our own benefit and gain. Paul tells us that submission to God's control - that is, constant filling by his Spirit will express itself in this: that we, like Christ, putting aside our own rights and our well-being, will constantly be looking out for the good of the other .

- Read the following
 - Galatians 5:13
 - Philippians 2:3
 - 1 Peter 5:5

SUBMIT

Submission has been misstought and abused, so let's get some things clear. Hidden within Paul's words is the radical concept that in every relationship we are to live by two standards:

1. Treat them like we would treat Jesus
2. Treat them as Jesus has treat us

In such submission to the dignity and well-being of the other person we demonstrate the very nature of God whose Spirit is in us. In such submission we demonstrate our allegiance to Jesus. In such submission we follow the example of Jesus.

Read Ephesians 5:22 - 6:9. Identify 3 areas we are called to submit.

- **Marriage (Verse 22-33)**
 - Marriage is the relationship with the most struggles. Paul explains first to the wife then to the husband what it means for each of them to 'submit to one another'. The measure of the wife's submission to her husband is the submission that she, as part of Christ's church, gives to Christ: it is 'as to the Lord.' Does she put aside her own inclinations and do what pleases the Lord? She should do the same for her husband. Does she subject her will to the will of Christ? She should do the same for her husband. The active love that she has for her husband will reflect the love of the church for Christ.
 - Read Proverbs 31:11-12
 - There is nothing here saying that the husband's role is to 'lord it over' his wife; all it is saying is that, in this principle of submitting to one another, the wife will 'submit' to her husband.

- Paul then moves to the responsibility of the husband in this 'submitting to one another'.
 - How does this expression of being filled with the Spirit impact the way a husband relates to his wife?
- As we look at Paul's answer we realize that 'submitting' is not about control or superiority. The husband, Paul commands, will love his wife 'as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her'. The husband's example is not that of Christ in his power and majesty, but Christ in his self-denial, Christ in his death. Here Paul challenges the husband to a far deeper and more costly level of submission than that which he requires of the wife: a self-denying, self-negating, self-sacrificing submission to her well-being that is measured by the incarnation and sacrifice of Christ.
- In the same way, says Paul, the husband controlled by the Spirit of God, will be committed to the well-being of his wife, even at great cost to himself.
- Paul devotes twice as many words to telling husbands to love their wives as to telling wives to be subject to their husbands.
- Below, 3 practical ways husbands can love their wives:
 - Be willing to sacrifice EVERYTHING for her.
 - Make her well being of primary importance.
 - Pray for her.
- Empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit, no wife needs to fear submitting to a man who treats her this way!
- **Family (Veress 6:1-4)**
 - If our faith in Jesus is real, our home is the biggest test! Our faith and life change will prove itself in our closest relationships. Kids and parents have a responsibility to be Christlike. Kids should honor their parents, even if the parents are demanding and unfair. Parents should take great care to grow and be loving to their kids, even if their kids are disobedient and not making good choices. Remember, this submission is fueled by the Holy Spirit! It all comes together by serving each other and putting others interests above our own.
 - Read the following
 - Colossians 3:20
 - Colossians 3:21
 - The purpose of parental discipline is to help your kids grow. It is not to provoke them to anger, to put down, or to discourage them. Frustration and anger should never be the cause or fuel for discipline. Parenting is hard, but remember, the Holy Spirit is fueling this! Parent your kids in love,

patience, kindness, gentleness and self control! Treating your kids as Jesus treats people and treats you. Our kids get a picture of who Jesus is by our example of how we love them.

- **Workplace (Verses 5-9)**

- Slavery is evil.
- With that said, we must understand the context of what was happening at the time. Paul's statement neither condemns or condone slavery, but speaks on how to live together. Slaves played a significant role in their society, there were several million in the Roman Empire at this time. Slave owners were becoming Christian, so Paul had to deal with the issue of "master and slave" relationships head-on. Paul tells husbands, wives, parents, kids, slaves and masters how to be caring.
- So our context? (Verses 6-8) Workplace.
- Paul encourages responsibility and integrity on the job. Christian employees should do their job as if Jesus was their employer . And Christian employers should treat their employees as Jesus treated people... with love and care. The Spirit-filled employee, however, will have a deeper respect for and commitment to his employer: he/she will not just 'obey' his boss, he/she will honor his/her boss... in the same way that he/she would work for Jesus.
- Ask yourself the following?
 - Can you be trusted to do your best, even if the boss is gone?
 - Do you treat the people under you with honor and respect?
- No matter Who you work for, or who works for you, the ultimate goal is to please your Heavenly Father!
 - Ephesians 4:32
 - Luke 6:31
 - Matthew 25:40-45

Although people may be at different levels in earthly society, remember, we are ALL EQUAL before God. He does not play favorites, and not one of you is more important than anyone else. Love and serve, just do as Jesus did and you will always be honoring those around you!