

**Lifestyle Evangelism:  
How to be a Good Christian Witness!  
Col 4:5-6 Part 6**

**I. Review – quickly!**

**A. Eph 5:15-6:9 Structure**

**1. Command: Walk in Wisdom**

Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

**2. How to Walk in Wisdom: Three Contrasts**

**a) Wise-Walk: Not as Unwise but as wise**

15... not as unwise men **but** as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

**b) Will-Walk: Not as foolish but understanding the will of the Lord**

17 So then do not be foolish, **but** understand what the will of the Lord is.

**c) Spirit-Filled Walk: Not drunk to dissipation but Spirit-filled to Four Results**

18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, **but** be filled with the Spirit,

**(1) → Four Results**

19 **speaking** to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **singing** and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always **giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and **be subject** to one another in the fear of Christ.

**B. Command to Walk in Wisdom (5:15)**

Eph 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

1. “**careful**” = be exact, be accurate, be diligent

a) PICTURE: Walking through a mine field with a battle going on

- (1) Surveying the ground in front of you
- (2) Watching each footstep – placing each carefully
- (3) Watching side-to-side / ALERT to EVERYTHING!

2. 16 making the most of your time.

a) “**making the most of**” = **redeeming**” =

b) “**time**” = kairon NOT chronos

- (1) NOT = CHRONOLOGICAL TIME
- (2) “kairon” = PURPOSE of time = OPPORTUNITY that TIME gives

c) =“redeeming our opportunities”

- (1) = GRABBING UP INTENSIVELY THE OPPORTUNITIES that the LORD GIVES us TO SERVE HIM!
- (2) – opportunities that TIME offers!

- d) → Why make the most of our time? 16...because the days are evil.
- e) Paul: IT'S a BAD WORLD OUT THERE! Wisdom =
  - (1) WATCHING EVERY STEP /EVERY STEP Godly
  - (2) Intensely grabbing EVERY OPPORTUNITY to do GODLY GOOD

### C. How to Walk in Wisdom: Three Contrasts

not as unwise men but as wise, 16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil. 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,

1. WISE-WALK: not as unwise men but as wise,
  - a) 3 contrasts tell us HOW to walk in Wisdom!
  - b) Contrast = “but” -all those marked on the outline!
  - c) the Negative is FIRST as said before
2. WILL-WALK: 17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
  - a) Paul's repeating the principle of V.15 here
    - (1) first contrast, Paul said to not be “UNWISE”
    - (2) NOW – he directly says DON'T BE FOOLISH!
    - (3) V15 said to be wise – Here: Understand what the will of the Lord is!  
SAME THING!
    - (4) = REPITITION for EMPHASIS!
  - b) do not be foolish, = MORON = “does not use rational powers” = BRAINLESS
  - c) “foolish” =BY CONTRAST = “NOT understanding what the will of the Lord is”
    - (1) = FUNCTIONING APART from God's will
    - (2) By DEFINITION = Acting like an UNSAVED person BECAUSE  
Scripture - as rooted in the OT – Calls the unsaved “fools”
  - d) BUT understanding what the will of the Lord is
    - (1) “understanding” = USING your BRAIN!
    - (2) Understanding = YOUR REASONING POWER
    - (3) = comprehend, gain insight = UNDERSTAND
    - (4) what the will of the Lord is
      - (a) Does Scripture tell us His will specifically?
        - (i) A: Yes AND No!
        - (ii) Yes: Specifics about His will!  
→*Don't Kill / Don't commit adultery!*
        - (iii) No: Bible doesn't tell you who to marry / what job to take / what house to buy!
      - (b) How do we act “wisely” in those areas?
      - (c) A: Scripture's PRINCIPLES to live by
  - (5) BL: WILL of the LORD = OBEY COMMANDS and PRINCIPLES of  
Scripture and you will be WISE!

## II. **NEW: Spirit-filled Walk!**

Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; 21 and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

**A. Still in our FLOW of CONTRASTS! - HOW to WALK in WISDOM from v.15**

**B. 3<sup>rd</sup> Contrast: Eph 5:18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit,**

**C. “And” – VERY IMPORTANT WORD!**

1. “And” tells us that this contrast is TIED to the PREVIOUS one
2. Previous contrast = GENERAL “how” to walk in wisdom - do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.
3. “And” leads us into a SPECIFIC explanation of HOW to not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is!
4. Paul – Let me give you FURTHER explanation... SPECIFICALLY,... do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled by the Spirit...
5. one of the big problems with V.18 is that it is taken out-of-context!
6. It is not wrong to talk about v.17 in general as we did last week
  - a) However, Paul wants to point out ONE SPECIFIC aspect of this to the Ephesians!
7. People get all fuzzy about what “filled with the Spirit” means!
  - a) In context start with meaning =
    - (1) Walk as WISE
    - (2) Understand what the Will of the Lord is!
  - b) Then look at v.18 to see what it says! (which we will do!)

**D. 18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation,**

1. One of the MOST MISQUOTED VERSES in the BIBLE!
  - a) Basis for most all sermons on Christian Drinking!
  - b) NOTE: Bible does FORBID DRUNKENNESS! BUT NOT from THIS VERSE!
  - c) So, if this verse is NOT about drinking in general, what is it about?
2. Eph 5:18=RELIGIOUS drunkenness in PAGAN religions!
3. Remember – Ephesus had one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world – Temple of Artemis / Diana
4. Pagan worship had a lot of SEX and DRINKING
  - a) Why? Believed: A HIGHER STATE of ECSTASY and EMOTION MEANT a HIGHER ABILITY to COMMUNE with the gods!
5. Greek god of mythology, Zeus, had a son, Dionysius
  - a) Dionysius was to rule the earth.
  - b) According to mythology, the TITANS were on the earth then and tried to kill the unborn baby.

- c) Zeus zapped the Titans with lightening and from their ashes created the human race.
- d) Dionysius then ruled the humans!
- e) He developed a religion whereby humans could “ascend” to a higher level of consciousness.
- f) Guess how you ascended?
  - (1) Sexual immorality
  - (2) Loud, wild music & extreme dancing to into a frenzy
  - (3) Eating raw animal sacrifices
  - (4) AND - DRUNKENNESS!
  - (5) Do all this stuff and get really high and then call out “Come Savior”
- 6. Do you what Dionysius’ ROMAN NAME is? BACCHUS! = Roman God of Wine!
- 7. You know, the word “drunk” in v.18 gives you a clue to this pagan worship with wine!
  - a) V.18 “drunk” = compound = “after” + “to sacrifice”
    - (1) = common practice of drunkenness after pagan sacrifices
    - (2) Apparently didn’t have a word for Drunkenness
    - (3) SO – Greek word “drunk” LITERALLY is just a description “that which you did with wine after you sacrificed”!
- 8. Now look at the Command: “Do not get drunk”
  - a) CONTINUAL form of the verb = PROHIBITION against the condition of drunkenness
  - b) NOT a prohibition against drinking – even to Ephesians!
    - (1) IOW ABUSE is forbidden, not USE!
- 9. “for that is dissipation” =
  - a) Original meaning = incurable, hopelessly sick
  - b) Came to mean = DESTROY yourself by your lifestyle
  - c) SO – Drunkenness dissipates, DESTROYS you / life.
- 10. Think about it –Drunkenness was a THEOLOGICAL problem!
- 11. Paul: You DON’T GET HIGH to GET CLOSER to GOD!
  - a) That’s NOT WISDOM!- That’s FOOLISHNESS!
  - b) That’s NOT the WILL of the LORD!
  - c) THAT MERELY DESTROYS YOU! (dissipation)
  - d) Paul – GETTING DRUNK is NOTHING more than DESTRUCTION!
- 12. Think back about EVERYTHING we’ve seen in this passage about WALKING in WISDOM!
  - a) V.15 be CAREFUL how you walk = watch EVERY SINGLE step
  - b) “make the most of time” = seize EACH and EVERY OPPORTUNITY
  - c) “understand what the will of the Lord is”
  - d) Now – don’t get drunk with wine

- e) COMMON THREAD = Christian LIFE is a CONTROLLED LIFE
    - (1) = DISCIPLINED life
    - (2) = Life LED by the BRAIN, FILLED with KNOWLEDGE and the Holy Spirit, FUELED with UNDERSTANDING, FOLLOWED by OBEDIENCE!
  - f) What is drunkenness? OPPOSITE of ALL THAT!
    - (1) Loss of Physical control
    - (2) Loss of emotional control
    - (3) Loss of MORAL CONTROL
    - (4) NO CONTROL!
  - g) BL: False Religion ALWAYS takes you in the OPPOSITE DIRECTION God EXPECTS you to GO!
    - (1) Getting you DRUNK is an EASY way to get you going in the other direction!
    - (2) AND – you FEED the FLESH!
      - (a) Not SOUL FOOD!
      - (b) Emotion, Ecstasy, etc.!
      - (c) Drunkenness destroys you
    - (3) What does walking in wisdom do? MAKE You MORE LIKE CHRIST!
13. So, if foolishness gets drunk, what does wisdom do to become more like Christ and Please God?

#### **E. but be filled with the Spirit,**

1. “Spirit” = Holy Spirit
2. Key: what does “be filled” mean?!!!
3. = ANOTHER GREATLY MIS-USED PHRASE in Scripture!
  - a) Many teach that the Spirit has to keep filling you up – 2<sup>nd</sup> blessings, Ecstatic experiences etc! WRONG!
  - b) Many also DOWNPLAY this as the ever present Holy Spirit who indwells us! WRONG!
4. “be filled with the Spirit” is a COMMAND that PROFOUND AFFECTS your CHRISTIAN LIFE
  - a) =BASIC, BOOT CAMP, TRUTH need to UNDERSTAND
  - b) AND - OBEY to live the Christian life
5. REMEMBER the CONTEXT!
  - a) Paul is in set of CONTRASTS - how to walk in wisdom!
  - b) Here – he’s just talked about NOT getting drunk = BEING FILLED with WINE
  - c) BUT he IS COMPARING “filling” with wine with “filling” with the HOLY SPIRIT!
  - d) JUST FINISHED saying that Drunkenness is DISSIPATION = LACK of CONTROL that DESTROYS.
6. Now: “be filled”
  - a) word that has the idea of PERMEATING and CONTROLLING, DOMINATING.

- b) Think about it – when you talk about drinking, you don't focus on the physical act of pouring wine down your throat and "filling" your stomach!
- c) You focus on the EFFECT it has on you – IT CONTROLS you.
- d) Same thing here – "[be filled](#)" = give yourself over 100% (idea of filling) to COMPLETE CONTROL of the HOLY SPIRIT!
- e) SO - "[filled](#)" = CONTROLLED.
- f) Command is Continuous: "Keep being filled CONTINUOUSLY"
- g) Command is PASSIVE – You don't do the Filling! – the Holy Spirit does!
  - (1) Your part is to be FILLABLE! I.e. Controllable!
  - (2) IOW – You let yourself be CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit!
- 7. When Stephen was being stoned in Acts 7 he was "filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7:15) = CONTROLLED by the Holy Spirit!
- 8. There are TWO KEY Parallel Passages to Eph 5:18 "[be filled with the Spirit](#)"
- 9. Let's use these to
  - a) ENRICH UNDERSTANDING of "[be filled by the Spirit](#)"
  - b) BE APPLICATION of HOW to "[be filled by the Spirit](#)"

### III. **Let the Word Of Christ richly dwell in You!**

**A. Colossians = Sister book to Eph. – Many parallels**

**B. Let's read Col 3:16-17**

[Col 3:16](#) Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [17](#) Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

**C. Now listen to Eph 5:18-20**

[Eph 5:18](#) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, [19](#) speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; [20](#) always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;

**D. NOTICE: The results are the same for both of these commands!**

**E. Hence, the commands mean the same thing!**

**F. "[be filled with the Spirit](#)" = Let the word of Christ richly dwell in you!"**

1. How do we understand the "[will of the Lord](#)" (Eph 5:17)? A: Through the Word of Christ!!!
2. What does [dwell](#) mean in V.16? A:
  - a) Be at home in you
  - b) Be comfortable there!
  - c) = KNOW it, LIKE it, LIVE it – COMFORTABLY!
  - d) = same as the Holy Spirit controlling you! (He doesn't control you by force! – most of the time!)

**G. So, to better understand AND APPLY “be filled with the Spirit” – you KNOW that it also means to have the Word of Christ at home in you!**

**H. SECOND – Turn to Gal 5:16 (third parallel passage)→**

#### **IV. Walk by the Spirit –**

##### **A. Context of 5:16 Paul wrote to the Galatian church**

1. Counter false teachers: Judaizers
2. Teaching you must become Jews to become Christians = submit to whole Mosaic Law.
3. Galatians were “so quickly deserting” the true Gospel (Gal 1:6) that Paul wrote this very strong letter.

##### **B. Gal 5:16 refers BACK to Gal 3:3**

3:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

**C. “Are you so foolish?” – TALK about TYING DIRECTLY to Eph 5:15-17 and Foolishness vs. wisdom vs. Being filled with the Spirit!**

##### **D. “Having begun by the Spirit” (Gal 3:3)**

1. Our Christian life began in the Spirit
2. In the “agency” of the Holy Spirit
3. Convicted of sin / Brought to repentance
4. Faith that saved us was energized by the Holy Spirit
5. He has sealed us for eternal life

##### **E. “are you now being perfected by the flesh?”**

1. “perfected” = brought to completion = “sanctified”
2. “by the flesh?” = Living like your UNSAVED SELF! – Your way not God’s way! = FOOLISHNESS of Eph 5!
  - a) Flesh = unredeemed nature, unredeemed humanity
3. = Human effort on your own to accomplish the supernatural.

##### **F. WHAT PAUL IS SAYING IN Gal 3:3:**

1. Remember: our salvation was a working of the Holy Spirit in its initiation
2. Therefore, our spiritual living must be a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit!
3. One of the most serious MISTAKES Christians make is to try to “get sanctified”, “to grow spiritually,” without the Holy Spirit!
  - a) USING False, worthless human solutions that replace the MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- b) GARBAGE TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S GOALS!
  - c) THE KEY TO CHRISTIAN LIVING – TO GROWING SPIRITUALLY / TO BE PERFECTED - **IS THE HOLY SPIRIT**
4. Paul had to give the answer to the Galatians -They had this problem!

**G. Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.**

1. “walk by the Spirit”
  - a) “walk” = CONTINUOUS, DAILY step-by-step!
  - b) How are we to live? ONE STEP AT A TIME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!
    - (1) In our Christian life, the Spirit is in us leading
    - (2) WE ARE SIMPLY TO RESPOND STEP-BY-STEP, MOMENT BY MOMENT, DAY-BY-DAY

**H. AND Paul continues (V.16b) - IF YOU WALK BY THE SPIRIT - YOU WILL NOT CARRY OUT THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH!**

1. “carry out” = to fulfill, to finish = “CARRY OUT TO THEIR FULFILLMENT”
2. “desires” = LUST (NAS is wrong / NKJ right)
  - a) Over-desire, craving for what is forbidden,
3. Sooooo, Paul is starting a contrast here
  - a) Walk by the Spirit vs. Carrying out the your LUSTs
  - b) IF you walk by the Spirit YOU WILL NOT carry out the desires of the flesh
  - c) What's the assumption here?

**I. PAUL WANTS TO BE FAIR – THERE'S A CONFLICT**

Galatians 5:17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

1. THIS IS AN EASY PRINCIPLE TO ARTICULATE, IT'S NOT THAT EASY TO LIVE IT!
2. Conflict assumed in v.16 - Conflict won't go away UNTIL we ELIMINATE the flesh. = DIE!
  - a) ALL PROBLEMS ARISE FROM THE FLESH.
    - (1) All of our SIN, our difficulties are come from the flesh!
    - (2) THE FLESH IS THE BRIDGE BY WHICH THE WORLD AND SATAN REACH US!

- (3) THE FLESH DESIRES THAT YOU
  - (a) DISOBEY GOD
  - (b) DOUBT / DISTRUST GOD
  - (c) BECOME USELESS TO GOD!
  - (d) THE FLESH DESIRES THAT YOU SIN
  - (e) THE FLESH SETS ITS DESIRE AGAINST THE SPIRIT
    - (i) IT WANTS EVERYTHING OPPOSITE FROM WHAT THE SPIRIT WANTS!
- (4) So, we must find some means to subdue, control, the flesh. = Gal 5:16
- (5) SINCE ALL OF OUR PROBLEMS
  - (a) ALL OF EVERYTHING WRONG IN OUR LIVES FOR WHICH WE SEEK SOLUTIONS IS ALL CAUSED BY THE FLESH
- (6) THEN THE SOLUTION TO EVERYTHING IS TO OVERCOME THE FLESH!
- (7) THE ONLY WAY TO OVERCOME THE FLESH IS TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT – GAL 5:16.
- (8) THIS IS NO OVER-SIMPLIFICATION – THIS IS THE WORD OF GOD! THE MIND OF GOD!
- b) YOU CANNOT OFFER A HUMAN SOLUTION FOR A SPIRITUAL PROBLEM.
  - (1) Spiritual answers are not found in psychology, methodology, etc.
  - (2) Not human effort, good ideas, clever plans, systems
  - (3) THE WAY TO OVERCOME THE DRIVING, COMPELLING, OVERWHELMING DESIRES OF THE FLESH IS TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT.
- c) THE IDEA THAT YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOME HUMAN SOLUTION TO YOUR PROBLEM IS NOT SCRIPTURAL – IT'S FOOLISH!
  - (1) A HUMAN SOLUTION IS JUST MORE OF THE FLESH!
- d) But if you walk by the Spirit you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

**J. V.18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.**

- 1. To be under the law is to be operating by works, by human effort. - That's useless!

**K. Conflict Categorized and Contrasted (Gal 5:19-25)**1. V.19: "Now the deeds of the flesh are evident"

- a) Notice: You are not a victim of these things!
- b) Paul tells it like it is – they are deeds of the flesh!

Galatians 5:19-21 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, - (SEXUAL BEHAVIOR) 20 idolatry, sorcery, - (FALSE RELIGION) enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, (- RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS) drunkenness, carousing, (- DRINKING, PUBLIC ORGIES) and things like these, - (NOT A FULL LIST FOLKS!) of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

## 2. Think about the problems of Christians

- a) sexual behavior problems - walk by the spirit!
- b) Idolatry (e.g. worshipping money, etc.) – walk by the Spirit!
- c) Drugs (sorcery) – Walk by the spirit!
- d) disputes... walk by the Spirit!
- e) Marriage problems... walk by the Spirit!
- f) Work conflicts... walk by the Spirit!
- g) Strife: Don't get along with people in general... walk by the Spirit!
- h) Jealousy... walk by the Spirit!
- i) Anger... walk by the Spirit!
- j) Drinking... walk by the Spirit!
- k) Envy... walk by the Spirit!

## 3. YOU CAN PUT IT ALL HERE! = THE FLESH!

4. AND THIS ISN'T AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST! "and things like these" (v.21)5. 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

## a) Let's look at some more human problems

- (1) I'm not a loving person – WALK BY THE SPIRIT – THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE
- (2) I'm sad, depressed, not a joyful Christian...
- (3) I'm full of fear, not at peace...
- (4) I'm impatient, demanding, distracted...
- (5) My life is out-of-control...

## b) Do you see how straight forward this is?

## c) How did we ever get so messed up?

- d) HOW DID WE FORGET GOD'S WAY AND GET INTO SELF-EFFORT?
- e) IF ALL THE PROBLEMS IN OUR LIFE ARE PRODUCED BY THE FLESH
  - (1) AND THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN OVERCOME THE FLESH IS THE SPIRIT THEN
  - (2) MAKES SENSE TO WALK BY THE SPIRIT!
- f) In Ephesians terms – Walk by the Spirit = Be filled by the Spirit = WALKING IN WISDOM
  - (1) Walking by the FLESH (deeds of the flesh) = FOOLISHNESS!

#### **L. Conclusion for all Christians (Gal 5:24-25)**

5:24-25 Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

1. V.25 "[If we live by the Spirit](#)" = definition of a Christian = same as v.24 [those who belong to Christ!](#)

#### **M. What a beautiful motivation!**

1. "[As those who belong to Christ Jesus](#)", "As those who live by the Holy Spirit of God"
2. CONSIDERING WHO YOU ARE, WHO IS IN YOU, WHO YOU BELONG TO – FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE – LIVE LIKE IT!
3. WALK BY THE SPIRIT!

#### **V. Come back for More on this next week- in Col 4**

**A. We're not done here!**

**B. This week – CHALLENGE YOURSELF!**

**C. Is your LIFE UNDER THE CONTROL of the HOLY SPIRIT – i.e. are you FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT?**

**D. Does the WORD of CHRIST dwell richly in you?**

**E. Do you walk by the SPIRIT – yielding to HIM**

**F. OR –**

1. Are you foolish in your behavior
2. Are you carrying out the desires / lusts of the flesh?
3. Which list in Gal 5 best represents your life?
4. The deeds of the flesh OR the Fruit of the Spirit?