

## MY NOTES:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# EPHESIANS

Ephesians 4:2-6

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# EPHESIANS

## 19. WALK AS THE WISE EPHESIANS 5:15-21

One of the main ideas throughout Paul's words is that we want to honor God before a world of people who dishonor Him. This goes with Paul's words today in **Ephesians 5:16: *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*** We know we live in a world where the majority of people live in darkness; one of the reasons we live for God in outward expressions of faith is that we want to live in a way others can see the light of God in the midst of the darkness.

- **When you think of "evil" in our present day, what comes to mind?**
- **What does it mean for God's people to "make the best use of their time?"**
- **What lies about God prevent us from trusting His will?**

Jesus hung out with the "undesirables" but people knew His love, grace, and righteousness by being around Him. Not feeling condemned; they felt called to something greater as they witnessed His life on display.

**Walk as the Wise** – The goal of Scripture is to reveal Jesus to us; it speaks about sin because sin separates us from Jesus. There are a lot of ways today that are "just the way the world currently operates," but that doesn't mean it *should* be that way. The story of God reveals a way of life in His Kingdom that is not like the broken one around us. Walking as wise people and understanding what "the Lord's will is" go hand in hand. Christian and non-Christians do many of the same activities, **but how God's people conduct themselves in life is different because we are in relationship with God.** Our goal is to walk with Jesus in wisdom, so we are to ask "What does God want?" This is usually the opposite of how most of us start our internal conversations.

- **What does the "will of the Lord" look like in your life right now?**
- **How are you being called to live differently from those in darkness?**

## DISCUSSION NOTES

**Be Filled with the Spirit** – The Holy Spirit enables us to walk in wisdom; when Paul talks the way he does, he is pointing us toward a maturity. When Paul says to be filled with the Spirit, he is emphasizing that we can't live in wisdom correctly (or live authentic lives) without the Spirit. We have to look at what it means to be filled with Him and then relate it all back to wisdom.

The life of being Spirit-filled means a life of self-control or "under the control of the Spirit of God." That is often not the first thing that comes to people's minds when thinking of being "Spirit-filled." Tim Keller paraphrased this passage as, *"Do not get drunk with wine, for that burns you out, it exhausts you, and it dissipates you. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

**Read Ephesians 5:15-21.**

- **What would it be like to live in the Spirit's strength and not your own?**
- **What are common "counterfeits" of the Holy Spirit?**
- **How does the Holy Spirit grant us courage, vulnerability, and meaning?**
- **What evidence of the Holy Spirit's work do you see in your life? In your community's lives?**

"Don't get drunk...be filled with the Spirit," means that the Spirit of God gives us meaning, courage, and the ability to be vulnerable, *not* by diminishing our vision, but by *expanding* it. The Spirit of God stimulates a life to see the bigger picture of reality centered in Jesus. Being filled with the Spirit is to be moved and propelled by God.

- Eph 1:13 – Jesus died for our sins and we were sealed with the Spirit. **Are you a Christian?**
- Eph 1:17 – Spirit of God instructs us so we can get to know God. **Are you growing in your relationship with God?**
- Eph 2:18 – We have access to the Father by the Son through the Spirit. **Are you in prayer?**
- Eph 3:16 – Spirit empowers us for service – **Are you serving others in ministry?**
- Eph 4:2-6 – Spirit knits those in the church together in spiritual friendships. **Do you have spiritual friendships with believers?**

The Spirit of God comes from GOD, not from man.