

# BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

## Small Group Study Guide: Ephesians

Week of November 12 (Week 11)

Ephesians 5:15-33



### REVIEW OF CHAPTER FOUR

Chapter four begins the second half of Paul's letter to the Ephesians. From Chapter 4 on, Paul stresses the practical application based on the theological exposition in Chapters 1-3. "The theme of Chapters 4 and 5 is the integration of Christian experience (what we are), Christian theology (what we believe) and Christian ethics (how we behave). They emphasize that being, thought, and action belong together and must never be separated" (John Stott. *The Message of Ephesians*. 193). In the first part of Chapter 4 - Eph. 4:1-16, Paul dwells on the importance of living in unity in the church with a focus on the believer's growth. In the second part - Eph. 4:17-32, he stresses the important of holy living outside the church in wider society (v. 17). In verses 17-32, Paul maintains that life in Christ demands a radical change in one's behavior. His thought in verses 17-32 can be divided into two sections. In verses 17-26, Paul discusses the new life in relation to self and God. Whereas, in verses 27-32, he talks about the new life in relation to others.

### BIG IDEA

As believers, we walk in wisdom by utilizing our time in ways that please God and in living a Spirit-filled life that permeates praise, thanksgiving, submission, and love.

### OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT

This week we study Ephesians 5:15-33. In this section, Paul presents a new idea with the words "Look carefully then" (ESV) or "So then" (NASB), yet his use of the term "walk" (cf. 4:1, 25; 5:1-2, 7-8) makes evident the continuity of his overall emphasis. In verses 5-21, Paul begins with a basic admonition and then he applies this instruction to various groups of people in Ephesians 5:22-6:9. Paul admonishes the believers to walk/live wisely, making the best use of their time and understanding God's will (5:15-17). He also exhorts the believers to live a Spirit-filled life instead of a life filled with wine (5:18-20). Contrary to a life filled with wine that leads to debauchery, Paul says a Spirit-filled life demonstrates praise (v. 19), thanksgiving (v. 20), and mutual submission (v. 21). A Spirit-filled life in the married relationship is the submission of wives to the leadership of the husband (vv. 22-24) and the sacrificial love of husbands that benefits their wives (vv. 25-33).

## OBSERVING THE TEXT

1. Paul continues the thought of the believers' walk from the previous section. According to verse 15 -17, what is Paul's assumption of the believers and what are the marks of the believers?
2. What is Paul's admonition to the believers in verse 18?
3. Paul's positive admonition to "be filled with the Spirit" needs to be seen in light of the negative admonition "do not get drunk with wine." What does it mean to "be filled with the Spirit"?
4. As opposed to drunkenness "that is debauchery" (Grk. *asotia*- "disorderly life resulting from the lack of self-control) what results from a Spirit-filled life?
5. Paul continues the theme of the Spirit-filled life as it relates to wives and husbands in verses 22-33. In verses 22-24, what is Paul's exhortation to wives and how does he illustrate this exhortation?
6. Paul's admonition for husbands (vv. 25-33) is to love their wives. What example and argument does Paul give for husbands to demonstrate love to their wives?

## CONNECTING WITH OTHER TEXT

7. Read Genesis 2:18-25—the passage from which Paul quotes in Ephesians 5:31. What do you notice about the original intention that God had for man and woman when they are together in marriage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. In 1 Peter 3:1-2, Peter offers some teaching specifically for Christian wives who are joined with unbelieving husbands. How does he instruct them to live within their marriage? What should be their goal, and what should they pray for as they submit to and love their husbands?

## APPLYING THE TEXT

9. How does the admonition for walking/living carefully in wisdom and making the best opportunity of the time you have speak to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. A Spirit-filled life is characterized by praise, thanksgiving, submission, and love. Which area do you struggle in and need growth? Or, why is praise, thanksgiving, submission, or love a struggle for you?

## PRAYER

### PRAYER GUIDE

November 12, 2023

Read Ephesians 5:15-33

Living in the Spirit's power is vital. Relationships are a vital part of a believer's life at home and at work.

**Monday:** <sup>5:15</sup> *So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise.*

<sup>16</sup> *Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.* How can these two verses guide you in praying today? Now, put feet on your prayer and do it. Keep it in mind throughout the day.

**Tuesday:** <sup>5:17</sup> *Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.*<sup>18</sup> *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit.* How well do you understand what the Lord wants you to do? What do you have to say to God in prayer? Next, *be filled with the Holy Spirit.* This requires emptying your self out. What is your next step?

Let it  
be your prayer.

**Wednesday:** <sup>5:20</sup> *And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Take a few minutes and make a thank you list. Go back as far as you can remember. Now practice giving thanks for everything, even the tough times that caused you to grow.

**Thursday:** <sup>5:21</sup> *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*<sup>22</sup> *For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*<sup>25</sup> *For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her.* Is there any kind of submitting you need to do? Ask God to show you. Willingly lacerate pride and submit. Now, pray for help.

**Friday:** <sup>5:33</sup> *So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.* How does this verse speak to you? If you are not married, how does it challenge you to be more loving and submissive in any friendships? Ask God to guide you and then take action.

For more resources, visit [www.briarcliff.church/ephesians](http://www.briarcliff.church/ephesians)