

In Christ: Being Filled With the Holy Spirit
Ephesians 5:15-21

THE WARNING: Be Careful How You Walk – Eph 5:15

- “Evil”: a theory of success based on self-determination- Gen 1-3
 - ...“flesh”: life apart from God – Jo 6:63; Ro 8:5-9
 - ...an unbeliever is “in the flesh” – Ro 8:9
 - ...a believer in Christ is “in the spirit” – Ro 8:9
 - (but may live as though “in the flesh”)
- A Prime Example: Under the influence of alcohol – Eph 5:18
 - ...to be drunk is to over-indulge
 - ...also a metaphor for the external, temporary, false
 - ...what is here today but gone tomorrow
- Such pursuits are:
 - ...not wise – Eph 5:15
 - ...not sensible – Eph 5:17
 - ...not saving – Eph 5:18

THE WAY: Be Filled With the Spirit – Eph 5:18

- Under the influence of the Spirit of God
 - ...Receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord – Jo 1:12; Jo 3:16
 - ...Recognize He lives within you permanently – I Cor 2:12; 6:19; Eph 1:13,14; Heb 13:5
 - ...Realize He wants to fill and influence every aspect of your life – Ro 8:14-17; I Jo 2:27
 - ...Renounce your self-determining ways – Jo 6:63; Matt 4:4
 - ...Release by faith His fullness in and through you – Col 2:6; I Jo 4:4

THE WITNESS: A Walk Worthy of His Filling – Eph 4:1

- The walk of joyfulness – Eph 5:19; II Cor 6:10; 12:15; Ja 1:2
 - ...a holy gladness rooted in the unseen things of God – I Pet 1:8
- The walk of thankfulness – Eph 5:20; II Cor 2:14; 9:15; Phil 4:6
 - ...keeps us tuned and turned to the eternal perspective – I Thess 5:18
- The walk of submissiveness – Eph 5:21; I Tim 2:11; I Pet 2:13,18
 - ...seeking the fulfillment of others – Phil 2:3ff