

The Government of the Living Spirit II Corinthians 3:1-18

Being "under the government of the living Spirit" may have other synonymous images in the New Testament: "filled with the Spirit... led by the Spirit... walking in the Spirit." Yet they all speak to the same idea - being "under the influence" of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:15-21 Paul specifically employs this idea when he says we are not to be "filled" with alcohol, but rather "filled" with the Spirit!

How can you tell when someone is under the influence of a drug? By the way the "move"... walk, talk, relate to others! Paul emphasizes how important it is to "be careful how (we) walk" - "how" we walk is more important than "where" we walk. Why is this so important? Because "the days are evil" (5:16). There are many voices in the fallen world who want to place us under their influence. Voices promoting radical individualism, unsatiable consumerism, unrealistic romanticism, unbridled sensualism (to name a few). What are the potential results of listening to these voices? Paul lists three outcomes of being under the influence of any voice that is not God:

- 1) We will end up not wise - 5:15 (how many wise decisions have we made under the influence of a lie?)
- 2) We will be not sensible - 5:17 (think drunk driving, impulsive words, credit cards)
- 3) We will become not whole or well - 5:18 (drug use, pornography, anyone?)

To be under the influence of such voices dis-orients, dis-integrates, dis-solves. Such moral stupidity leads to much wreckage and ruin.

We have a better option - "BE BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT!" His is the Life that enables us to fully function according to the design and intent of our Creator (and Re-Creator). Paul gives no "formula", but recommends the following:

- 1) Renounce the externals as the way to "life" - ("wine" = an intoxication with anything temporal, created that we might think will deliver us) - Eph 5:18
- 2) See every crisis as a call to worship God - (speaking, singing, praising, giving thanks "for all things" tunes and turns us to the Spirit) - Eph 5:19-20
- 3) Declare a readiness to be for others - ("being subject to one another" allows the Spirit who is for others to find His release through us) - Eph 5:21

Such postures place us squarely "under the government of the Living Spirit". This is the way Divine doings flow through human beings!

✂-----

- **Tax-deductible contributions** -
may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*
13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615
- **Messages and sermons by Steve** -
www.stevepettitmessages.com
- **Conferences and events led by Steve** -
can be arranged by calling Steve at 352-672-1275
- **To receive this newsletter electronically** -
email your request to OICnewsletter@gmail.com

Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



Greetings

With a minor apology to the original 9th century author:

You've come, You've come Emmanuel
And ransomed captive Israel,
That mourned in lonely exile here
Until You, very Son of God, appeared.
We rejoice! We rejoice! Emmanuel,
You've come for us, O Israel!

You've come, Our Dayspring, to comfort and cheer
Our spirits by Your advent here.
Disperse the glooming clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
We rejoice! We rejoice! Emmanuel,
You've come to us, O Israel!

You've come, Desire of Nations,
To bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Please bid our sad divisions cease
And be Yourself our inward King of Peace.
We rejoice! We rejoice! Emmanuel,
You've come in us, O Israel!

Nothing much going on outside of us that a fresh awareness of Emmanuel - God for us, God to us, God in us - can't deal with! (I Jo 4:4; 5:4,5)
Merry Christmas!

***Don't' forget we are dropping the 386... phone number as of January 1, 2020. You will be able to reach Steve at 352-672-1275**

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

10 Alachua Study
11 Ocala Study *NOTE CHANGE

↩ 2020 Florida Retreat ↩



February 21-23
Gainesville, Florida



"Life Together" (I John)

\$50 deposit (per person) due by February 1, 2020

\$325 per Couple (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$275 - per person, single room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$170 - per person, 2 to a room (meals, room & retreat fee)
\$75 per person (meals & retreat fee - no room)



Praise & Prayer



God with us



God within us



2020 Florida Retreat



Comfort and cheer for the broken and hopeless

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
ALACHUA, FL
PERMIT NO.11

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

One In Christ, Inc.
13820 NW 172nd Avenue
Alachua, FL 32615