

Filled with what?

New Years Retreat 2014

Course Description:

(Eph 5:18) "And do not get drunk with wine...but be filled with the Spirit." See the contrast between the artificial pleasures of the world and the abiding joys of the Spirit.

Today's battle: So What?!

Written for believers in all cultures and countries.

Alcohol, Drunkenness, and Debauchery (Dissipation):

Use:

- a. As a medicine...Proverbs 31:6, I Tim. 5:23
- b. "Correct" use as a beverage. John 2:1-11

Abuse:

- a. Excess... Proverbs 23:29-35, Proverbs 20:1
- b. Habit forming...1 Corinthians 6:12
- c. Offends weak conscience of a fellow believer... Romans 14:13 and 1 Corinthians 8:9
- d. Does it glorify God...1 Corinthians 10:31
- e. If there is a doubt in your mind that it does not bring glory to God... Romans 14:23
- f. Does it help me run the race?...Hebrews 12:1

Ephesians 5:18 contains a negative and command and positive one. Similar to Ephesians 5:15...wise versus unwise.

Negative

"do not get drunk"

You do things when drunk you would never do while sober:

1. Crazy, wild, rudely outgoing
2. Mean, combative, fight
3. Drive drunk
4. Waste time and money
5. Destroy relationships
6. Loss of self control

Positive

"be filled with the Spirit"

You do things by the Spirit you would never do in your fleshly state:

1. Love your enemies
2. Forgive others
3. Hold your tongue
4. Speak boldly for Christ
5. Live out the fruit of the Spirit
6. With the Spirit you get self-control

In Context:

Ephesians 5:15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, ¹⁶making 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, 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.

In Acts 6:15 we have Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit. Faith filled Stephen in the sense that it controlled him. The Holy Spirit filled Stephen in the sense that He controlled him. Therefore, the fullness of the Spirit has reference to His control over the believer yielded to Him. The verb is in the present imperative; "Be constantly being filled with the Spirit." The interpretation is, "Be constantly, moment by moment, being controlled by the Spirit."¹

The Act of Filling:

Commanded to be filled....action on our part. It is not automatic but the result of obedience. It will result in Fruit. (Gal 5:23). Spirit of peace...1 Cor. 14:32

Filling is different than:

- Baptism incorporates the believer into the body 1 Corinthians 12:13
- Indwelling John 14:16
- Anointing 1 John 2:27
- Earnest and seal Ephesians 1:13-14

These all happened the moment we believed.

So today's "filling" will not do for tomorrow

1. Confess known sin 1 John 1:9
2. Yield to His Control Romans 12:1-2
3. Do the Word...Col 3:16, Eph 5:19
4. Emptied of self...Gal 2:20, Psalm 139:23-24

The results of filling....Eph 5:19-21

Ephesians 5:18b ...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.

¹ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: For the English reader* (Eph 5:18). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

How to know when I am filled?:

Ask yourself these questions. Only you truly know the condition of your heart.

1. Do I speak to others in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs?

(Talk about the Lord's things)

2. Do I sing with my heart to the Lord?
3. Do I give thanks for everything in the name of the Lord?
4. Am I subject to others in the fear of Christ?

Luke 6:45 The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. ESV

Influencers i.e. what else could we fill ourselves up with? Consider:

Ps 37:4 Delight yourself in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Phil 2:1-18 (look up, focus on attitude)

The Way of Escape!

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Challenge for us.

1. Make a personal mission statement and write down your beliefs today about this subject.
2. Read Proverbs to seek and find out more about foolishness and wisdom.
3. Make God honoring choices about your personal "influencers."
4. Be there for your friends.