

Walk Well- Ephesians 5:15-21

When you think of living wisely, what are some things that come to mind?

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Our new identity in Christ produces a way of life that is careful, deliberate, intentional. Paul points us to two main things needed for that kind of living – wisdom and the filling of the Holy Spirit. First, he focuses us on wisdom in verses 15-17.

- 1) Take a look at Ephesians 1:7-9, 1:17-19, 3:10-11, and 1 Corinthians 1:21-31. What is wisdom according to Paul? What does it mean to walk in it?
- 2) One aspect of living wisely is to redeem our time in this world. What does that mean and what might it look like in your life?

The kind of life Paul is promoting involves more than just wisdom. It requires that the Holy Spirit be the shaping influence over lives. He describes what that looks like in verses 19-21

- 3) There is emphasis on gratitude and thankfulness here. Why do you think that is? What does our flesh tend toward rather than gratitude?
- 4) Why is it so important that we speak to each other with praise and gratitude toward God?
- 5) How are gratitude and thanksgiving important to living with intention and care?
- 6) Submission is another way of living the Spirit produces in us. What does this look like and why is it important?

Big-picture:

- 7) When you think about what we've seen, how do you think you should pursue living more intentionally (as Paul describes it).
- 8) What do you think this looks like for us as a church community?

Prayer:

- What can we praise God for?
- What sin do you need to confess?
- What cares or burdens can we help carry?