



First Baptist Church Selmer

JESUS VS CULTURE: BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW • BE FILLED! •
EPHESIANS 5:18-21 • 2/25/2024

MAIN POINT

The Holy Spirit gives believers full confidence that they belong to the Lord and leads them to live on mission no matter the culture in which they live.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Share with the group when you received the gift of salvation. Does it mean more to you now than it did before?

When someone gives you an especially thoughtful or splendid gift, are you excited to tell others about it? How does your gratitude and enjoyment of the gift reflect on the giver?

Sometimes, an inexpensive but thoughtful gift makes us feel loved and appreciated because the giver paid attention to what we like or need. Salvation is certainly the greatest gift that any of us have ever received. God gave us His only Son who was crucified for our sins. This is a tremendous gift. On the third day, Jesus demonstrated His victory over sin and death by rising from the dead, and He promised eternal life to anyone who will repent and believe in Him. This is such love, such joyous news, that we cannot keep it to ourselves. The Holy Spirit fills our hearts to help us boast about our God and the deep love He has shown to us in Jesus Christ.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:18.

"18 And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit," (ESV)

Why do you think that Paul contrasts getting drunk with being filled with the Holy Spirit?

What are the differences between the two?

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we gain discernment, grace, compassion, and wisdom. When someone is drunk, they lose discernment, clarity of mind, and compassion, and they act foolishly. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we boast in the things of Christ, and through His convicting power we are humbled. When someone is drunk, they boast arrogantly and generally become overly focused on themselves.

What do you think it means to be filled by the Holy Spirit? How do we get filled with the Holy Spirit?

Being filled with the Holy Spirit means living as God would have us live. We live each day in submission to Christ and seek to give Him the glory in all that we do. The way we are filled by the Holy Spirit is by studying God's Word and praying. One of the ways the Holy Spirit builds us up is through the encouragement of other believers.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:19.

"19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart," (ESV)

Who are we supposed to be "making melody to" when we sing in worship?

Why is it important we also think of the effect our worship has on fellow believers?

What kinds of songs should we sing to the Lord?

Many in worship services sing songs without considering whom they are worshiping. Although we are to sing praises out to an "Audience of One", our worship has an impact on those around us as well. The Lord is the only One we worship but is not the only one who listens. When we sing, we ought to sing to the Lord but with the understanding that

our worship of God may lead others to worship alongside us. Not only is the Lord pleased to receive our worship, but our brothers and sisters around us are encouraged by our singing as well. The Holy Spirit works through us to minister to others in the church through our worship of Christ.

Paul makes it clear that many kinds of songs are acceptable worship to the Lord by including psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We all have one "style" that we may prefer over another, but Paul encourages us to make use of them all. Remember, our singing is not only for the Lord but also for the encouragement of those around us. Being humble enough to sing even when the song may not be our favorite is the kind of humility a person filled with the Holy Spirit would display.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:20-21.

"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." (ESV)

How does being "*filled with the Spirit*" look practically?

What might we learn about the Trinity from this passage?

How are we to submit to one another?

These verses help us understand how we interact with each member of the Trinity in our worship. First, Paul tells us to be filled by the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are reminded that God is our Father (Rom. 8:15). The Spirit also leads us to glorify Christ (John 16:14). Being filled with the Holy Spirit, we can thank the Father for everything, especially for sending us His Son to save us from our sins. With the Spirit, we can come to the Father in worship in the name of Jesus because Jesus' sacrifice cleanses us from all our sins. Paul teaches us to "*consider others as more important than [ourselves]*" (Phil. 2:3). When we truly believe that we are servants of Christ, we will esteem our brothers and sisters above ourselves. Our goal will be to serve them. With this attitude, we will delight in encouraging and working for the betterment of the church. Such service is pleasing to God, and such humility is a sign that we are indeed filled with the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What are some things we can do to “*be filled with the Holy Spirit*”?

How important do you think the variety of songs mentioned in the passage might be to our worship gatherings?

What are some ways that we, as a people filled with the Holy Spirit, might serve one another with the gifts that the Holy Spirit empowers?

PRAYER

During a time of group prayer, thank the Father for the gifts that He has given us, both in the sending of His Son and in the sending of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Father to fill us with the Spirit so that we might worship Him in spirit and in truth.

COMMENTARY

| EPHESIANS 5:18-21

5:18. Ephesus was a center of pagan worship and ritual. The Ephesian culture worshiped Baccus, the god of wine and drunken orgies. They believed that to commune with their god and to be led by him, they had to be drunk. In this drunken state, they could determine the will of their god and determine how best to serve and obey him.

Paul was talking about how to commune with the God of heaven, how to live for Him, how to serve and obey Him, how to determine His will. It was natural for Him to draw the contrast between how the god of Ephesus is served and how the God of heaven is served. With the God of heaven, you do not get drunk with wine. Rather, you are filled with the Spirit. Being drunk with wine leads to various sins and immorality of darkness described above. By being filled with the Spirit, you can determine God’s will and serve Him faithfully in moral living.

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? Some interpreters equate this command with instances of being filled with the Spirit in the Book of Acts in which miraculous things happened: people spoke in tongues; prophecies and visions were given; people were healed. “*Be filled*” in this verse is not the same word as the one used in the Book of Acts, nor are the consequences the same. Rather than understanding this command in verse 18 to have anything to do with miraculous or extraordinary happenings, it is better to

understand it in context. In this ethical context, it means directed, influenced, and ultimately governed by the Holy Spirit. This filling, then, is best understood, as a command for the believer to yield himself to the illuminating, convicting, and empowering work of the Holy Spirit. As He works in our hearts through His Word, our lives are brought into conformity with the will of God (v. 17).

5:19-21. Four Greek participles—"speak, make music" (melodying), "giving thanks" (thanking), and "submit" (subjecting)—in verses 19-21 modify the verb "be filled" of verse 18, describing the person filled with the Holy Spirit. The first two participles suggest the importance of music and Scripture in being filled with the Spirit. An attitude of gratitude is a third characteristic of being filled with the Spirit. Finally, an attitude of mutual submission among believers is a characteristic of being filled with the Spirit.