



Walking with the Wise: Paul, One Skilled at Living

Ephesians 5:15-21

August 10, 2014

VII. Live Skillfully in a Fallen World: Live by the Spirit's Power (Eph 5:15-21)

A. The Spirit of God indwells all who trust Christ as their Savior (Eph 1:13; I Cor 6:19-20)

1. He performs the supernatural work of regeneration – cleansing us of sin through new birth, in a moment of time. (Titus 3:5)
  - a. He baptizes us, immerses us, into the family of God at that moment (I Cor 12:13)

B. The Spirit of God desires to transform us into the character of Christ (II Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29)

1. He performs the supernatural work of sanctification –making us holy in character through moments of time (Rom 6:13)
  - a. He fills us, controls us, and produces right behavior one moment at a time (Eph 5:18; Gal 5:22-23)

C. The Spirit of God gives the power to live skillfully: we must choose to yield to Him (Eph 5:15-18; Gal 5:16-23)

1. We must choose moment by moment, in our thoughts, to be controlled by God's Spirit (Eph 5:18)

- a. An act of saying no to our desires, the world's desires, and Satan's desires (Gal 5:16-21, 24)
- b. An act of calling on God in dependent prayer to give us strength to say no to the wrong and yes to Him and His ways (Eph 3:14-16)
- c. An act of seeking His direction in the decisions that we make in everyday life (Phil 1:9-11)

d. An act of saying yes to God personally and to His desires (Gal 5:18, 25; I Jn 5:3)

2. We yield to God and He produces biblical behavior (Rom 6:13)

a. Christ-like character (Gal 5:22-23)

b. Christ-like service

1). In the home (Eph 5:21-6:1-4)

2). In the family of faith (Gal 6:1-10)

3). In the marketplace (Eph 6:5-9)