

“Filled with the Spirit”
Ephesians 5:15-21

A (Negative) Example of Being Filled by the Spirit (v. 18a)

- Paul doesn't demand total abstinence from alcohol.
- It is always sinful to drink too much—to be drunk.

An Explanation of Being Filled by the Spirit (vv. 18b-21)

- The filling of the Spirit is qualitative, not quantitative.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. (Romans 8:9)

- The filling of the Spirit is Christ-centered, not mystical.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17)

- The filling of the Spirit is primarily relational, not private.
 - The Spirit-filled are joyful toward each other and unto God.
 - The Spirit-filled are thankful toward God.
 - The Spirit-filled are humble toward one another.

An Exhortation about Being Filled by the Spirit (vv. 15-17)

- Think carefully about the importance of your Christian walk.
- Look carefully at the character of your Christian walk.