

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 5:17
Not Foolish But Understanding

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Do Not Be Senseless!

Ephesians 5:17a (LEB)
Because of this do not become foolish,

- “Do not become” is imperative
- “Foolish” is *aphro_n* and means “unthinking” or “senseless”
- This word is used in the Psalms and Proverbs for the fool who denies God
- Jesus uses it in Luke 12:20 for the rich man who is not rich toward God

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Three Contrastive Exhortations
Ephesians 5:15-18

Not Unwise **But Wise**

Not Foolish **But Comprehending**

Not Drunk **But Filled With the Spirit**

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Understand the Lord’s Will

Ephesians 5:17b (LEB)
...but **understand** what the **will of the Lord** is.

- “Understand” implies a comprehensive and intelligent grasp of God’s will
- This is God’s moral will as revealed through Christ and His apostles
- To understand Christ’s will requires an active love for the truth and diligent study

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Implications and Applications

- It is critical to actively embrace a love for the truth and seek it out
- Loving the truth implies a hunger to learn it and willingness to study God’s word with diligence
- We must distinguish between God’s moral will and His providential will

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Welcome the Love of the Truth

2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11 (LEB)
and with every unrighteous deception against those who are perishing, in place of which **they did not accept the love of the truth**, so that they would be saved. And because of this, **God sends them a powerful delusion** so that they will believe **the lie**,

- The truth is the gospel (John 14:6)
- The lie is “you will be like God” (Gen 3:5)

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Search Out the Truth

2 Timothy 2:15 (NASB)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

- “Be diligent” is imperative and denotes being eager to do one’s best (Eph. 4:3)
- It is crucial to get it right when we study and teach God’s word

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6

What Is and Is Not Revealed

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NASB)

The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

- Those who pry into what God has not revealed are practicing the occult
- What God has revealed we must search out, cherish and obey

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7

God’s Moral Will

1 Thessalonians 4:1, 2 (NASB)

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. For you know what commandments we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

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8

God’s Providential Will

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB)

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

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9

Christian Liberty

1 Corinthians 10:31, 32 (NASB)

And whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God;

- Context: Having liberty but not using it to harm another’s conscience
- It is wrong to think that God’s “perfect will” is to dictate every decision we make

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10