

Imitating God | THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

What Are the Questions?

Ephesians 5:15-21

Launch

Name a hero you remember having as you grew up. Did you ever try to be like him/her? What challenges did you face? In 5:1, Paul exhorted his readers to “imitate God.” Just as we were overwhelmed in trying to be like our childhood heroes, these readers must have been even more overwhelmed to think of trying to emulate a sinless, perfect God.

Explore

Read 5:15-18

1. What contrasts do you see in these verses?
2. Foolishness is contrasted with understanding the will of the Lord. Why?
3. The last contrast in these verses is the command “do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit.” Why do you think Paul uses the drunkenness contrast here with being filled by the Spirit?
4. This is not the first reference to the Spirit in Ephesians. Read Eph 1:13. According to this passage, when do Christians receive the Spirit?
5. Read Eph 2:18-22. What role does the Spirit play in the Christian life?
6. Read Eph 4:30. How does this passage relate to the command in 5:18?

Be Filled with the Spirit

7. “Be filled with the Spirit” is a present tense verb. Why would Paul use a present tense verb to describe being filled with the Spirit?

8. “Be filled with the Spirit” is a command. Why is this significant?

9. “Be filled with the Spirit” is in the passive voice. Why would Paul teach that believers are passive recipients of the filling of the Spirit?

10. Think about this: we are commanded to do something we cannot do. What does this tell you about the Christian life?

11. Read Eph 3:16-19. What similarities do you notice between Paul’s prayer in Eph 3 and 5:18?

Read 5:19-21

12. These verses display beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit. What are they?

13. How does thankfulness qualify as an expression of being Spirit filled?

14. What does Paul want us to understand about living as an imitator of God?

Apply

15. Paul exhorts us to “walk wisely.” What would it look like for you to walk wisely?

16. Describe what it feels like to try to be an imitator of God without being Spirit-filled. What thoughts have you had when you found yourself trying to live this way?

17. Where do you presently see the greatest need to experience God’s empowering presence in your life?

18. Based on our study of Ephesians thus far, what should we do to be Spirit-filled?

NOTES:
