

EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

Welcome back to Ephesians 5! In our passage today, we will see that as followers of Jesus, we need to be people of wisdom and intentionality if we are going to make the most of our lives for God's glory and experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in days marked by evil.

Scripture: Ephesians 5:15-21

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?
2. In verses 15-17, Paul instructs us to be careful and live wisely for the sake of pleasing the Lord. What does it mean to act/live thoughtfully rather than thoughtlessly? As an example, consider how you spend your time. Are you thoughtful or thoughtless?
3. Why is it that we're most concerned with the will of God when we're facing life's big decisions but not so much with the more minor ones? For example, have you ever considered the Lord's will when making entertainment choices?
4. In his book, *Live No Lives*, John Mark Comer writes, "The poet Mary Oliver once said, 'Attention is the beginning of devotion.'" How do these words from Oliver align with what Paul is saying about living wisely and pleasing the Lord?
5. Read John 15:18-19. As followers of Christ, when we choose to live differently, our choices can be viewed as an unintentional judgment by those making the opposite choices. Have you ever experienced this personally? Give some examples of how this could happen regarding how we spend money, organize our schedules, and make entertainment choices. How can making personal choices to please the Lord be viewed as legalism? How could we be tempted to use this argument to justify our choices?
6. In verses 18-21, Paul calls us to be filled with the Holy Spirit. According to Paul, what are the signs of someone under the influence of the Holy Spirit? How do we nurture the presence of the Spirit in our lives so that we experience His ongoing presence and power? What role does thoughtful living play?
7. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?