

# **Ephesians**

*More than a Makeover*

## **How Should Christians Live?**

### **Ephesians 5:7-21**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / May 25, 2025*

#### **I. You've Got A New Reason For Living**

**Ephesians 5:11** "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."

The Greek word for "expose" literally means to persuade, convince, or to show someone with evidence. Which means you're going to have to be close enough to engage, to talk, to love, and to look for opportunities to get one foot in their world so that you can point them to our Savior.

Jesus Himself was criticized for doing what Paul's calling us to do, as the church crowd in His day would say, "Why does He eat with sinners, tax collectors, and prostitutes?"

Paul even had to make a follow-up correction with the Christians at Corinth who thought he'd told them to have nothing to do with sexually immoral people.

**1 Corinthians 5:9-11** "I wrote you in my letter not to associate with immoral people; <sup>10</sup> I did not at all mean with the immoral people of this world...or then you would have to go out of the world. <sup>11</sup> But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person..."

When Jesus healed the demoniac, he was so grateful that he wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go back home where everyone knew him as a crazy man so he could tell them what He had done for him.

**Luke 8:38-39** "The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him."

One of the biggest problems that keeps us from doing what He's called us to do is the Christian "ghetto" mentality where Christians only want to be with other Christians. They try to create a Christian alternative for every part of life.

**Pastor Tim Keller** explains what God's called us to do by illustrating the difference between three different models of engagement with our culture:

- A. The Tourist** – Someone who just uses the culture because they know they're going to be in and out in a few weeks. So, they learn enough language to get around and serve their own convenience. They spend a lot of time complaining, as well as committing some incredible social and cultural faux pas.
- B. The Immigrant** – Someone who wants to settle in. They want to adapt, assimilate, and become a part of the culture so that they can tap into all that the culture offers regarding power, money, and a chance to improve their life.
- C. The Ambassador** – Is neither a tourist or an immigrant. He never loses sight of his true home, his real mission, and his ultimate citizenship, but he works hard to learn the culture and to communicate fluently so that he can represent his country and his king well.

Being ambassadors is what we're called to do as Christians!

Read **2 Corinthians 5:17-21** to see how Paul talks about it.

#### **D. How Can You Live Like An Ambassador For Jesus Christ?**

1. You step towards the darkness.
  - Neighborhood
  - Gym
  - Moms' gathering
  - Book club
  - Take a class
  - Hang out at local community events (art festivals, music festivals, etc.)
  - Community sport (pickleball league, etc.)
  - Community volunteer (animal shelter, library, etc.)
  - Other
2. You notice individual people.
3. You engage individual people.
4. You learn names.
5. You pray for them by name.
6. You call them by name.
7. You look for an opportunity to serve them or start a spiritual conversation.

#### **II. You Have A New View Of Where We Are In History**

**Ephesians 5:16** "Making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

**NIV** "Making the most of every opportunity..."

Paul used the Greek word "Kairos" instead of "Chronos," because "Kairos" referred to a time or place in history rather than a specific time of day.

Paul wants us to remember where we are in history. We're in the last days, so live for what matters most.

#### **III. You've Got Supernatural Help For What He's Called Us To Do**

**Ephesians 5:18** "And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit."

It's no accident the subject of drunkenness is bumped right up against the command to be filled with the Spirit, because there are some spot-on parallels between the person who is drunk and the person who is filled with the Spirit.

Literally it says "Be being kept continuously filled with the Spirit." It is a passive present imperative that doesn't describe a onetime filling, but is talking about something that needs to become a regular habit in your life. It's something you're going have to give attention to and think about until Jesus comes.

##### **A. His Spirit Changes How You See People**

**Ephesians 5:15-16** "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

The word for “look” in **v. 15** is the Greek word “Blepo” that was a much more intense form of looking that conveys the idea of watchfulness or readiness because of the spiritual perception and insight you have now.

He’s calling you to begin to see the world and the people around you the way God sees them, as if you were looking through the eyes of God!

## **B. His Spirit Keeps You In Touch With Reality**

When you’re drunk, your energy and resources are wasted and you’re very inefficient, but to be filled with the Spirit is the opposite of all that. To be filled with the Spirit is to be efficient, self-controlled, and focused.

Unlike the drunk person who doesn’t have the ability to see everything they should, being filled with the Spirit increases your awareness and alertness to all that’s going on. You start to see more of reality, not less.