

Walk In Wisdom

Ephesians 5:15-21

1

"Walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called." (4:1)

- ▶ We have been called to be:
 - Holy & without blemish. 1:4
 - Sons by Jesus Christ unto himself. 1:5
 - Fellow citizens with the saints. 2:19
 - Members of the household of God. 2:19
 - A holy temple in the Lord. 2:21
 - Fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ. 3:6

2

"Walk" used 6 times in Ephesians, emphasizing our life in Christ:

- a. Good works of God. 2:10.
- b. Worthily of our calling. 4:1 (Colossians 1:10-12).
- c. No longer as Gentiles (convinced of the futility of living in sin). 4:17.

Ephesians 5:1-21: *Practical applications* of being new people in Christ. (5:2; 5:8; 5:15)

3

Walk in...

- ▶ ***Love Ephesians 5:1-2***
 - Imitate Christ in sacrifice and purity to please God and be accepted.
- ▶ ***Light Ephesians 5:3-14***
 - Reject self-indulgence and bear the fruit of the Spirit
- ▶ ***Wisdom Ephesians 5:15-21***
 - Careful in all things to do the will of God (time, worship, thanks)

4

Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 15-16 Walk carefully. (exactly, looking on all sides) (cf. 1 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Peter 5:8)

- Be careful. James 3:13-18
- Redeeming time. (Making the most of the season of opportunity, cf. Galatians 6:10). Colossians 4:5
- Life has *"evil days."* (Cannot neglect to watch!) Ephesians 6:13; James 4:14-15; cf. Ecclesiastes 12:1; 11:8

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verse 17 Wisdom during evil days ... How Do We Do This?

- ▶ Understand the will of the Lord. (3:3-4)
 - Truth keeps us from acting foolish.
- ▶ Do not be filled with wine. 5:18
 - Riot (waste and excess), a way of living with no life in it. cf. Proverbs 23:29-35; 1 Peter 4:3-4; Titus 2:2, 5-6
- ▶ Filled with the Spirit; literally, "to cram" with, replete, fully under influence of (cf. Colossians 3:16; Galatians 2:20)

6

Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 19-21 Those who are filled with the Spirit of God will ...

- ▶ Speak to one another in song.
 - Teaching each other. Colossians 3:16
 - Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs – making melody in their hearts to the Lord.
- ▶ Give thanks always for all things in the name of Christ. cf. verse 4; cf. Colossians 3:17
- ▶ Submit to one another in the fear of Christ. (God KJV), cf. Philippians 2:3; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 5:5

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Singing Is All That God Has Authorized

Matthew 26:30 "Sung"
Mark 14:26 "Sung"
Acts 16:25 "Singing hymns"
Romans 15:9 "Sing"
1 Corinthians 14:15 "Sing"
Ephesians 5:19 "Singing"
Colossians 3:16 "Singing"
Hebrews 2:12 "Sing"
Hebrews 13:15 "Fruit of lips"
James 5:15 "Sing"

9

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

AUGUSTINE "musical instruments were not used. The pipe, tabret, and harp here associate so intimately with the sensual heathen cults, as well as with the wild revelries and shameless performances of the degenerate theater and circus, it is easy to understand the prejudices against their use in the worship." (Augustine 354 AD, describing the singing at Alexandria under Athanasius)

10

History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

The American Encyclopedia says, "Pope Vitalian is related to have first introduced organs into some of the churches of Western Europe about 670 but the earliest trustworthy account is that of one sent as a present by the Greek emperor Constantine Copronymus to Pepin, king of Franks in 755" (Volume 12, page 688).

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History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

The Chambers Encyclopedia (Volume 7, page 112) says, "The organ is said to have been introduced into church music by Pope Vitalian in 666 A.D."

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History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

John Calvin, founder of the Presbyterian Church and an able student of Augustine's doctrine, said, "Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps, and the restoration of the other shadows of the law ..."

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History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

John Calvin, "... The Papists therefore, have foolishly borrowed, this, as well as many other things, from the Jews. Men who are fond of outward pomp may delight in that noise; but the simplicity which God recommends to us by the apostles is far more pleasing to him."

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History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

John Calvin, "... Paul allows us to bless God in the public assembly of the saints, only in a known tongue (I Corinthians 14:16) What shall we then say of chanting, which fills the ears with nothing but an empty sound?" (John Calvin, Commentary on Psalms 33)

<http://www.bible.ca/H-music.htm>

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History Of Instrumental Music In Worship

John Wesley, the reputed founder of the Methodist Church, is quoted by Adam Clarke to have said: "I have no objection to instruments of music in our chapels, provided they are neither heard nor seen." Clarke's Commentary, Volume 4, page 684.

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 19-21 Those who are filled with the Spirit of God will ...

- ▶ Give thanks always for all things in the name of Christ. cf. verse 4; cf. Colossians 3:17
 - Christians should abound in it. Colossians 2:7
 - Compare the Gentiles. Romans 1:21

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 19-21 Those who are filled with the Spirit of God will ...

- ▶ Submit to one another in the fear of Christ. (God KJV)

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 19-21 Submit to one another
hypotássœ – “to place under,” “to affix,” “to subordinate,”
“to subject oneself;” “to be subservient,” “to submit
voluntarily.” (Theological Dictionary, Eerdmans)

- ▶ Wife / husband – voluntary.
- ▶ Child / parent – voluntary.
- ▶ Slave / master – voluntary.
- ▶ Local church / elders – voluntary.

Though the word suggests authority, it goes beyond that.
It suggests being willing to respond to another’s desires
and needs without a word expressed.

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Verses 19-21 Submit to one another
Teaching this kind of submission:

- ▶ Jesus. Matthew 20:27-28
- ▶ Paul. Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3; Ephesians 4:2-3
- ▶ Peter. 1 Peter 2:13-17; 5:5

Why? *“In the fear of Christ.”* Result of reverence for
Christ ... must obey Him.

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Walk in Wisdom, Ephesians 5:15-21

Wisdom:

- ▶ New life. 4:31–32
- ▶ Redeeming the time.
5:16
- ▶ Understand the will
of God. Mind
renewed. 5:17; 4:23
- ▶ Fruit of light. 5:9
- ▶ Singing, Thanks,
Submitting. 5:19–21

Foolishness:

- ▶ Former life.
4:17ff; 5:3–5
- ▶ Ignorance. 4:18
- ▶ Fellowship darkness.
5:7–8
- ▶ Drunkenness. 5:18

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