

WISDOM

Ephesians 5:15-21

- I. **LIVE WISELY** (15)—Christian wisdom is practical, teaches how to live
- A. **Consider Carefully**—intentionally notice, pay attention
1. **Know your goal.** — destination, target—what are you aiming for?
 2. **Give thought and planning.** —to make progress in the right direction
 3. **Evaluate and make adjustments along the way.** — Am I still on track, going in the right direction?
- B. **How You Walk** (Ps 4:4; Ps 119:59; 139:23-24; Lam 3:40)—the way you live, worthy of calling as a Christian?
1. **Examine yourself.**— (Ps 4:4; 119:59; Mat 7:5; Rom 12:3;) —focus on what **you** are doing and what **you** should be doing better.
 2. **Examine your behavior patterns.** (Ps 139:23-24; Pro 4:19, 25-27; Gal 6:3-4; Jam 3:2)—not just intentions
 - a. **View yourself accurately.** (Ps 36:2; Rom 12:3; Gal 6:3)—humility
 - b. **Ask God to show you.** (Ps 139:23-24)
 - c. **Seek out and accept counsel.** (Ps 141:5)—mentor, coach
- C. **Not as Unwise but as Wise** (Ps 111:10; Pro 3:13-18; 9:10; Hos 14:9; Jam 1:5)
1. **Wisdom is practical.** —apply understanding of reality to live well
 2. **Wisdom is moral.**—not just smart or stupid; also right or wrong
 3. **God is the source of wisdom.**— He designed & created everything
- II. **USING TIME** (16-17)—making the most of every opportunity
- A. **Evil Days**— Understand the times in which we are living
1. **Life is short.** (Ps 90:12)
 2. **The world is broken.** (1 Cor 7:26, 29-31)
 3. **We are at war.** (Jer 45:4-5; 2 Tim 2:3-7)
- B. **The Best Use of Time**
- C. **Understanding the Lord's Will** (Rom 12:2; Mat 6:33)
1. **General vs. Specific**—apply general will of God (scripture) to specific situation
 2. **Permissible vs. Beneficial** (1 Cor 6:12; 10:23)—Good is often the enemy of Best

III. **SPIRITS** (Act 2:)—alcohol; under the influence of what spirit?

A. **Not Drunk With Wine** (Ps 104:15; Pro 31:4-7; Ecc 9:7; Isa 28:7; 1 Tim 4:4-5 & 5:23;)—
a huge part of pagan culture

1. **Alcohol is not Forbidden.** —a gift to be used responsibly

2. **Drunkenness is inappropriate** (Isa 5:11-12) for Christians.

a. **Bad Judgment**—(Prov 31:4-5; Hos 4:11)

b. **Lack of self-control**—(Prov 23:29-35; 25:28)

b. **Debauchery**—(Prov 23: 20-21)—excessive, unhealthy, unrestrained indulgence
in all sorts of sensual pleasures

B. **But Filled with the Spirit**

1. **Continual Filling**—not a one-time event; continually replenishing

2. **The Holy Spirit** (Isa 11:2; Act 6:3; Gal 5:23)—not old nature of fleshly lust

a. **Good Judgment**

b. **Self Control**

c. **Other Virtues**

IV. **MUSIC** (Job 38:7; Prov 29:6; Jam 5:13;)—

A. **Variety of Musical Expression** (Ps 33:3; 40:3; 98:1, 4-6; 149:1-6;)

1. **Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs**—various styles, old & new songs

2. **Singing & Making Melody**—music and song

B. **To Whom**—audience, recipient of the communication

1. **One Another** (1 Thes 5:11)—encourage, inspire, instruct, remind

2. **The Lord** (Ps 92:1-3; 95:2; 147:1)—directly to the Lord, for Him

C. **With the Heart** (Ps 108:1; Lk 6:45)—heart is engaged, not an empty form

V. **GIVING THANKS** (Ps 9:1; 100:4; Ps 107; Phil 4:4-6;n Col 3:17; 1 Thes 5:16-18)—

A. **Always** —God is always worthy of praise, no matter what is going on

B. **For Everything** (Rom 8:28; Phil 4:6; 1 Thes 5:18)—God is sovereign

C. **To God the Father** (Jam 1:17)—source of goodness & blessing

D. **In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ** (Col 3:17)—all that we do