**Sermon Notes**

**“Be Filled with the Spirit”**

**Ephesians 5:15–21**

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

**15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,**

Why be careful how you live?

1. *Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is at stake.*
2. *Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is at stake.*
3. *Your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is at stake*

**16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.**

-The verb exagorazō can mean to ‘redeem’ or ‘buy back’

*“Resolved: Never to lose one moment of time, but to improve it in the most profitable way I possibly can.” Jonathan Edwards*

**17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.**

*1 Thessalonians 4:3-4
It is God’s will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control your own body in a way that is holy and honorable,*

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.*

*“What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?”*

**19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord. 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

A Christian filled with the Spirit is characterized by:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Questions for Discussion

1. What aspect of this message was most personally relevant and challenging to you? Why?

2. Of the three reasons given in response to the question, “why be careful how you live?” which stands out to you as most important?

3. What are areas of your life that you tend to “coast” in? Why is this the case? What might it look like to live more profitably in this area?

4. Why do you think Christians can be tempted to brush past the passages that reveal God’s (general) will for us (i.e. 1 Thess 4:3-4, 5:16-18), and instead focus on seeking God’s specific will for their lives?

5. What does Paul’s contrast between drunkenness and being Spirit-filled teach us about what it will look like to be walking in the Spirit?

6. How do you understand “submit to one another”? How do we keep this command from being abused by those who would seek to lord it over us for their own benefit?