

EPHESIANS

IN CHRIST / IN COMMUNITY

SERMON OUTLINE

Sunday August 28th, 2016

PASTOR DAVID COOKE: Living Wisely
Ephesians 5:15-21

- **Live Aware**

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

A. _____ living

B. Have _____

1. Make life count

a) Time to _____

b) Time to _____

c) Time to _____

d) Time to _____

e) Time to _____



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C. Expect _____

- i. Evil, in its most common form, shows up in the small compromises we make to settle for good rather than best and pursuing sin rather than following Jesus.
- ii. This form of evil chips away at our soul, emptying us of vibrancy and joy.

- **Choose**

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit," (Ephesians 5:17-18, ESV)

A. Foolishness or Understanding

You can get wisdom one of two ways: earn it or learn it.

You earn wisdom through your own experiences and pain.

You learn wisdom through the experiences and pain of others.

The first is deeper. The second is cheaper.

B. Self-medication or Spiritual Renewal

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything." (1 Corinthians 6:12, ESV)

"All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up." (1 Corinthians 10:23, ESV)



- **Spirit-filled Living**

Ephesians 5:18-21

- A. A heart filled with _____
- B. A heart filled with _____
- C. A heart filled with _____

- **Jesus-Directed Living**

D. Living well is a daily opportunity, choice and battle.

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”
(Philippians 4:13, ESV)

Answers: Autopilot, wisdom, worship, work, love, play, rest, resistance, song, thankfulness, submission



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SERMON STUDY GUIDE

1. What is a “really good day” for you? Describe the last “really good day” you experienced.
2. Paul instructs us to “look carefully” how we live our lives. (v.15) How do we do that?
3. David talked about five essential things for us to be doing to make life count. What do you excel at? Where do you struggle?
4. What is your battlefield where you struggle to live life well?
5. The whole of this passage is a contrast between living well and living poorly, living wisely and living foolishly. In verses 17-18, we are presented with a choice. What makes this choice a difficult one?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-14. How does this speak into the choices we face each day? How does verse 14 give us hope?
7. What is the evidence of Spirit-empowered living according to this passage? (vv. 18-21) On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate yourself?
8. Paul says thankfulness is an essential characteristic of Spirit-empowered living. We are to be thankful in and for all things. This week take time every day to write down at least two things you are thankful for.

Remember: Living well is a daily opportunity, choice and battle. Encourage someone to live well each day.

