

**RENOVATE:
EVERY DAY MATTERS**

Ephesians 5:15 – 20
Pastor Daniel Hahn
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MESSAGE NOTES

Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. — Ephesians 5:15 – 17

1. Structuring life around God's priorities. (5:15 – 17)

The reality is that secular culture is incredibly corrosive to faith. It eats away at it. It produces a Babylonlike environment, which is why you have multiple people today comparing our moment today to the exile stories of the Bible. Our task is to remember how to stay faithful in the midst of different cultures, beliefs and values. Our question as God's people must be how do we not just survive, but thrive here in exile. Daniel found a way to do it. The church in the West can, too. But to do that, we have to change, adapt and innovate — not theologically, but functionally. — John Mark Comer

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. — 1 Corinthians 9:25

Every day God invites us on the same kind of adventure. It's not a trip where He sends us a rigid itinerary, He simply invites us. God asks what it is He's made us to love, what it is that captures our attention, what feeds that deep indescribable need of our souls to experience the richness of the world He made. And then, leaning over us, He whispers, "Let's go do that together." — Bob Goff

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. — Ephesians 5:18

2. Surrendering to the Spirit's influence. (5:18)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we ... are being transformed into His image. — 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

But everything exposed by the light becomes visible — and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." — Ephesians 5:13 – 14

The fruit of the Spirit is:

- love,
- joy,
- peace,
- forbearance,
- kindness,
- goodness,
- faithfulness
- gentleness
- self-control

— Galatians 5:22 – 23)

The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you'll find your real self. Lose your life and you'll save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep nothing back. Nothing that you have not given away will ever be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.
—C.S. Lewis, *Beyond Personality*

... 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. — Ephesians 5:19 – 20

3. Relating out of a heart filled with gratitude. (5:19 – 20)

What is your spiritual workout?

- Are you consciously aligning your life by God's Word?
- Are you surrendering yourself to the Spirit's influence through the day?
- Are you relating to others in ways that reveal your love for God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take some time to read over our passage.
- What do you think Paul meant by starting this section with the warning to "be very careful?" Do you think people in general are "careful" about the way they're living their lives?
- How would you describe a wise person? How does making the most of our opportunities relate to wisdom?
- Paul contrasts being foolish with paying attention to what would honor God. Can you think of any practical examples of that contrast?
- In what ways is intoxication with alcohol a good comparison as well as a contrast with the filling of the Spirit?
- What does drunkenness lead to? By contrast, what does the filling of the Spirit lead to?
- How does Galatians 5:22-23 relate to this discussion?
- What do you think is our part, or our responsibility, when it comes to the fruit of the Spirit?
- At first, verses 19-20 might appear to be primarily about music, but as you spend time thinking about it, in what ways do you think the emphasis is on the attitudes of our heart?
- Over and over Paul writes about the importance of thanksgiving. How do we practically give thanks to God?
- Why do you think giving thanks is so important?
- How does thanksgiving change us?
- What is one practical step you could take this week to put what we've discussed into practice?