



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:15-21 (Col. 3:16-17)

Read Eph. 5:15-21; Col. 3:16-17

1. Eph. 5:15-18 contains 3 (successive) contrasts ('don't do this/ do that'; 'not this/ but that').
 - a. How does this structure help us understand Eph. 5:18 "Don't be drunk with wine, but be filled by/with the Spirit"?
 - b. Some preachers suggest it means "Don't get drunk with alcohol; rather get drunk with the Spirit"—Evaluate
2. The phrase "Spirit-filled" has widespread currency among Christians. Other common terms include "Baptized with the Spirit," "Anointing of the Spirit," "Gifting of the Spirit," "Slain by the Spirit," "tongue-speaking," etc. How would you distinguish between these latter terms and "Spirit-filled" in Eph. 5:18?
3. The command, "be filled by/with the Spirit" is present, passive. How does the analogy of the yacht/sailboat help us grasp how to obey a passive command? Explain. (Note the Greek word for 'Spirit'—Pneuma—can also mean 'breath,' or 'wind')
4. How does reading Eph. 5:18 along with the following verses (Eph. 5:19-21) support the idea that being "Spirit-filled" here is not a private, individualistic pursuit?
5. Eph. 5:19-21 gives 5 activities which modify the main verb—"be filled by/with the Spirit." Identify the 5 activities (verbs). How would you practice each of these activities? Which one (or ones) of the five has helped you the most? Share.
6. Colossians 3:16-17 are "sister verses" to Eph. 5:15-21. What words & phrases correspond between Eph. & Col.?
7. The striking contrast is that Col. 3:16 says "Let the word of Christ dwell...", while Eph. 5:15 says "Be filled by/with the Spirit." What implications can we draw from this parallel? Explain.