

Class Notes
Ephesians 5:15-31
November 29, 2023

Recommended YouTube teaching:

Darrell Johnson: Spirit-filled Relationships: Parts 1,2,3 (22,23,24)

Ephesians is:

- an alternative reading of reality based on
- an alternative reading centered in Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and ascended to the throne of the universe leading to...
- an alternative understanding of human relationships

Ephesians 5:15-18

How do we imitate God as Paul directs us to in v. 1? 5:18 is the key...

.... be filled _____

3 "not this, but that"

- **Not** live _____ **but** live as one who _____
- **Not** act _____ **but** understand what _____
- **Not** get _____ **but** be filled _____

V 18 - key verse –but be filled with the Spirit.

"Be filled" is the only imperative (command).

Eph. 1:13-14 - indwelling of the Spirit of Christ in us.

Eph. 2:22 - a dwelling place where God lives by his Spirit

Eph. 3:16-17 - empowered with inner strength through his Spirit, Christ makes his home in our heart

"Be filled with the Spirit" -

1. Command given in the _____ - We cannot make ourselves filled with the Spirit. We are utterly dependent on God. Only God can fill us with God.
2. Command given in the _____ - emphasizing continuous action. "Keep on being filled". The implication is that being filled by and with the Spirit is an ongoing phenomenon.
3. Command is in the _____ - meaning that somehow we have a role to play. What is our role? To Decide! Decide we want to be filled. Mysterious as it all may be, our will must be in cooperation with the Spirit. To desire daily to filled.

Ephesians 5:19-21

Four Manifestations, or results, of the “be filled” imperative....

- Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs
- Make music to the Lord in your hearts
- Give thanks to God for everything in Jesus name
- Being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ (worked out in 5:22 - 6:9)

Ephesians 5:22-24

“Being subject” is a result of _____. The participle the result of _____ the imperative.

Hupostasso - “Being subject” literally means _____.
When we are filled with the Spirit, we find ourselves “standing under.” Under Jesus Christ - “in reverence for Christ” and under one another.

Ephesians 5:25-33

“In the kingdom of God, when the Spirit of the great King comes, a revolution takes place; we live in mutual submission. All have equal dignity. All have equal value. Different roles, yes. Different responsibilities, yes. But all are equal before Christ. And all are in submission to Christ.”

This is how you imitate God

This is how you follow Jesus’ example

This is how you walk in the light and love of the Spirit

This is how you are their radiant aroma!

Questions for Ephesians 5:15-31

1. What does this passage of scripture talk to you about submission & obedience?

How does this look like in your life? Is submission to leadership an internal struggle in your life? If so, what is this passage speaking to you?

2. What does this passage about slaves and masters teach us about the heart of God? How did Jesus model this when He walked this earth?

Lectio Divina

Latin: "divine reading" or "sacred reading"

Pronounced: lex-ee-o da-vee-na

Lectio Divina usually includes four phases:

1. Reading the Scripture (*lectio*)
2. Meditating on the Scripture (*meditatio*)
3. Praying the Scripture (*oratio*)
4. Contemplating the Scripture (*contemplatio*)

4 Rs:

Read, Reflect, Respond in prayer, and Rest in silence.

In light of Paul's words in Ephesians 5, let us be filled with the Holy Spirit as we practice lectio divina of a familiar Jesus story. May God reveal Himself through interaction with His Word.

John 13:3-5,12-17 (NLT)

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, "Do you understand what I was doing? You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and you are right, because that's what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Lectio Divina

1. **Read** - aloud two times
2. **Reflect** - meditate on scripture; imagine the scene; ask questions
3. **Respond** - talk to God about what came up for you in the scripture
4. **Rest** - contemplate or wait in silence

Mark 10:35-45 (NLT)

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor."

"What is your request?" he asked.

They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left."

But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?"

"Oh yes," they replied, "we are able!"

Then Jesus told them, "You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen."

When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. So Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you, it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."