

STRETCH

Ephesians: Session 9

Ephesians: God's Purpose for His People



“be to the praise of his glory” (1:12)

Some more incentives...

- 1) The certainty of Judgement (v5-7)
- 2) The fruit of light (8-14)
- 3) The nature of wisdom (15-17)
- 4) **The fullness of the Holy Spirit (18-21)**

4) Holy Spirit (v18-21)

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

“Filled with the Spirit”

- The Spirit is not a liquid – this is a metaphor
- Warrington – “Filled” is to be controlled by something (e.g they were *filled* with anger etc.)
- Be filled = continue being further filled...ongoing process. Being increasingly controlled by the HS.
- “what matters is not the moment, but what follows”

Some clever stuff from Stott:

“Be filled” =

- *Imperative mood* – an authoritative command
- *Plural form* – to the whole community
- *Passive voice* – “let the holy spirit fill you”
- *Present tense continuous* – “go on being filled”

Encouragement and a challenge

Discussion

Paul says

“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,”

- Why do you think Paul compares getting drunk to being filled with the spirit?

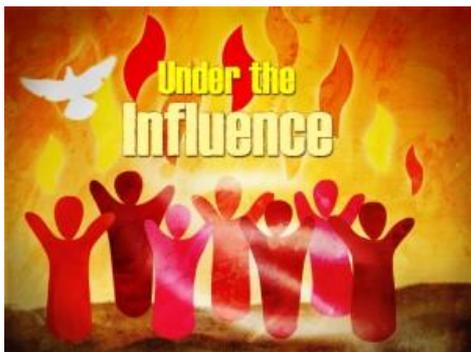
Similarities

- Both have a controlling influence (filled)
- Both affect peoples speech and inhibitions (Acts 2)
- People seek both for happiness
- Both impact relationships

Differences

- Too much alcohol depresses self control, reason, judgement and speech
- the fruit of the spirit is...self control etc.
- HS influences wise (Act 6), and inspired (Act 2) Speech.
- HS bring JOY in relationships

Living under the influence



Living under the influence

- In worship – v 19-21
- In marriage – v 22-33
- In parenting – 6 v 1-4
- In work – 6 v 5 - 9

1) Spirit-filled worship

- **Horizontal** worship – “Address one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs (Spirit inspired spontaneous songs)
- **Vertical** worship - Singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart,
- **Thankfulness** - Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- **Servanthood** - Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

So here’s the question...

How does the Holy Spirit’s influence, change and transform those relationships?

- Husband and Wife?
- Father and Child?
- Master and Slave?

Ephesians 5:22-33

What are wives and husbands encouraged to do?

- Wives...
- Husbands...

2) Spirit-filled Marriage

New Testament Times

- Patriarchal society – Men ruled
- Women, slaves and men without property had no vote
- To be 'head' was to rule like a king in the home
- In Greek culture prostitution was for pleasure and marriage for children
- Wives had little prospect of love

Head... but in a new way

- “Husband are **head** of the wife as Christ is the **head** of the church”,
- “His body” – Unity / One / Intimate
- “It’s Saviour” – Responsibility...
- The Head... loves His body and takes responsibility for it’s salvation – this will be a sacrifice...

Discussion

- Some people see “head” as a hierarchy term – how does this differ from the idea that “head” is taking responsibility?
- What impact would it have on marriages if a husband saw his role as a “responsibility” more than a “right”?

Ephesians 5:26-30

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendour, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

One body – equal members

- Husbands... love their wives as their own bodies.
- Nourish and cherish them
- Because husbands and wives are **one...**

This “one flesh” relationship that is so intimate, nourishing & cherishing was always the plan for marriage.

A Timeless Truth

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"

Ephesians 5:31

One = Equal in creation

- **Problem:** Gen 2:18a – “not good to be alone” – not just lonely, but needed wife and children to fill the earth
- **Solution:** Gen 2:18b – I will make an 'ezer (strong support / helper) *Kenegdo* ('equal' and 'opposite')

Genesis 2:23-24

Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

One = Equal in marriage

The first three lines are a formation of the traditional kinship formula.

- “At last... flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone” – She is now his kin – **equal status**
- A covenant formula of **reciprocal loyalty**.

A New covenant (Gen 2:24)

- **Leave** – A man will... Literally 'forsake' parent - breaking from the authority of his parents, to honour his wife
- **Cleave** – to his wife. Faithfulness to the covenant relationship. To sever one loyalty and commence another.
- **One Flesh** - Closer than their blood kinship – a 'whole person' intimacy.

It's all about Jesus and his church



“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”

Eph 5:32

...this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the **mystery** hidden for ages in God who created all things, so that **through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known** to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **Eph 3:8**

Spirit-filled Marriage

- Men and Woman as Equal in creation
- Husbands and Wives as Equal in marriage
- Mutual Submission as the context for ALL relationships
- Husbands: encouraged to have Christ-like love for their wives.
- Wives: encouraged to have Church-like respect their husbands

Discussion

- Some people see “submitting” as a negative thing – how does v21 help us understand?
- How is submitting to one another a way of having “reverence to Christ”?

Without the Holy Spirit

- Difference tends towards *division*
- Responsibility tends toward ‘Rights’
- Submission tends toward fear *slavery*

*The influence of
The Spirit
Transforms our
Relationships so they
Flourish and point
To Jesus*



Homework (Eph 6:1-9)

- How does Paul want the family and workplace to be transformed?
- What do vs 5-9 have to say about our attitude to
 - A) working for other people?
 - B) Other people working for us?