



Submit to One Another Out of Fear of Christ

EPHESIANS 5:18–21



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WELCOME: Fixing Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Ask each GG member to share an experience they have, if any, where a change in mind or attitude resulted in the resolution of a relational conflict they had with another person.

WORSHIP: Adoring Our God

Suggested songs:

- [Have Thine Own Way](#)
- [Take My Life and Let It Be](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members commit to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. GG members will humbly obey those who have authority over them.
3. GG members will submit to authority because of their reverence for Christ.

INTRODUCTION

In this portion of Scripture (Ephesians 5:15-21), Paul admonished the Ephesian church to be careful how they walk in their Christian lives. He gave three contrasts to show how they should walk. First, not as unwise but as wise. Second, not being foolish but understanding God's will. Finally, not being drunk with wine but being filled with the Spirit.

He enumerated four results of being filled with the Holy Spirit. First, believers address each other in spiritual songs. Second, they make melody to God in their hearts. Third, they give thanks to God for all things. Lastly, they submit to one another. In this lesson, we will focus on the last result of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul contrasted being filled with the Spirit with being drunk (v. 18b)

When a person is drunk, they do not have control over their bodies; alcohol does. In the same way, a person who is filled with the Spirit is being controlled or led by Holy Spirit. This happens when a believer immerses themselves in Scriptures and prayer.

1. Why do you think Paul contrasted being drunk with being filled with the Spirit?
2. How can a believer be filled with the Spirit? How is this different from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? (cf. Ephesians 1:13-14; Colossians 3:16-17)

Application

How much influence does the Holy Spirit have in your life? How can you overcome the barriers that keep you from surrendering to His influence?

One outcome of being filled with the Spirit is humble submission to other believers (v. 21a)

Paul enumerated four outcomes of being filled with the Spirit. The last one is that believers submit to one another. Paul gave specific examples in the following verses: wives submitting to their husbands, children submitting to their parents, and slaves submitting to their masters. Let's take a look at what it means to submit.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

1. The original Greek word translated as “submit” is *hypotassō*. Other examples of verses that make use of the word are Ephesians 5:24, Romans 13:1, and 1 Corinthians 15:27-28. Based on how these verses use this word, what does this word mean?

Application

Based on the meaning of the word “submit,” how can you humbly submit to fellow believers, especially in our church family?

Believers submit to one another because of their reverence for Christ (v. 21b)

Paul was careful to add that when believers are filled with the Spirit, they submit to one another because of their reverence for Christ, not because other believers are superior or that they are inferior. It is their reverence for God that leads them to submit to fellow believers.

1. What is the connection between submission to God and submission to others according to these verses: Ephesians 5:22, Colossians 3:18, Romans 13:1

Application

What changes should you make in your attitude toward God so that it becomes easier for you to submit to fellow believers?

PRAYER ITEM

Lord God, I pray that I will know you more intimately, that I will develop a deep reverence for you. May my desire to know you more lead me to study your word and immerse myself in them, that my thoughts, words, and actions be led by your Holy Spirit. May this lead me to humbly submit myself to other believers. In Christ’s name I pray. Amen. ■



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