

# Ephesians

## Session 5

Last week, we saw that in chapter four Paul made a shift in the subject of his letter. As was typical of his other letters, his transition from doctrine (*what Christ has done*) to duty (*what we must be and do*) is also seen in *Ephesians*. He writes that there must be a connection between our *credenda* and our *agenda*. He calls us to a life worthy of the call, which is a life of pursuing unity and purity.

In this session, we will continue in the practical application of doctrine. We will discuss what it means to *filled with the Spirit*.

### The Outline of Session 5 Passage

## New Power

Be filled with the Spirit (5:17-21)

Spirit-filled relationships at home and at work (5:22-6:9)

Spirit-filled victory over the powers of darkness (6:10-20)

### Be Filled with the Spirit – 5:17-21

These verses continue to reflect the *put off/put on* theme introduced in Ephesians 4:22-24.

“Do not be foolish”

But

“understand what God’s will is”

“Don’t get drunk with wine” Instead

“be filled with the Spirit”

Two imperatives – Commands that carry an obligation to act

*Don’t get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery* (Greek – *asotia*)

Be filled (Greek – pleroo)

*Present tense imperative -- continuous action*

*Plural – Everyone is included.*

*Passive voice – action not performed actively by the subject*

Four present tense participles indicate the evidence that accompanies the Spirit-filled life. (5:19-21)

(1) *Making melody in your heart to the Lord*

Psalms

Hymns

Spiritual songs (Greek *pneumatikos*)

(2) *Speaking to others out of the song that is in your heart*

(3) *Giving thanks to God for all things*

(4) *Submitting yourselves one to another*

**Spirit-filled Relationships at Home and  
at Work -- 5:22-6:9**

The three paragraphs that are encompassed in this passage are a continuation of verse 21, "submitting to one another." These are examples of what Spirit-empowered actions look like.

What submission looks like in the home (5:22-6:4)...

For wives (5:22-24, 33)

The idea of Headship is to be recognized.

The church's relationship to Jesus is given as a picture.

Paul summarizes submission with the word "respect." (5:33)

For Husbands (5:25-33)

The husband's responsibility is to love as Christ loved the church.

A sacrificial love

A sanctifying love

A caring love

An exclusive love

For Children (6:1-4)

Young children: Obey your parents in the Lord

Adult children: Honor your parents

For Fathers – Parents (6:4)

Do not provoke your children to anger -- break their spirit/discourage them. (See also Colossians 3:21)

"Bring them up" = "feed them to maturity"

Training (discipline) and instruction

What Submission looks like at work (6:5-9)...

The question of the Gospel and Slavery

For our purposes, we will draw from these passage principles that could be applied to the work place today.

#### Principles for Employees ...

Keep the standards and rules of the place of employment with respect.

View your work as being offered "unto Christ."

Your ultimate reward is not your employer's approval but Christ's.

#### Principles for Employers ...

Treat your employees with respect.

Realize you, like they, have an ultimate "boss" and the ground is level at the cross.

### **Spirit-Filled Victory over the Powers of Darkness – 6:10-20**

Paul is bringing his readers a dose of reality – there is spiritual warfare.

Spiritual opposition is a fact.

But so is the fact that God has not left us in a defenseless position.

Paul's introduction: Be strong in the Lord and put on the armor he has given you and be ready to take your stand against the devil's methods (6:10-11).

What are Satan's schemes?

The Enemy we face (6:12)

Not people

Powerful forces of evil in the “spiritual realm”

The evil day and the armor of God (6:13-17)

The key idea is the “power to stand.”

1. Belt of truth
2. Breastplate of righteousness
3. Sandals of the Gospel of peace
4. Shield of faith
5. Helmet of salvation
6. Sword of the Spirit

Since the battle is in the spiritual realm, it will be fought by prayer (6:18-20).

Pray in the Spirit.

Pray everywhere and for every need.

Paul’s unique prayer request for himself

## Questions for Table Conversations

1. Since Paul is telling Christians to be “filled with the Spirit”, does this imply that it is possible to be a non-Spirit-filled Christian?
2. Being filled with the Spirit is a continuous action. In what ways can we always be in a “fill-able” condition? In other words, how do we keep the “sail up” so that our lives are moved by the power of the Holy Spirit?
3. Of Paul’s instructions to husbands and wives, which do you think are more challenging to obey?
4. Describe a time in your life when you experienced intense spiritual warfare? How did you handle it?

-----

### **Before our next session**

1. Read through the whole book of Ephesians at least a couple of times this week. Read in a reflective manner and consider the things covered in the Expound class.
2. Write down at least three things that you have learned that will help you in your spiritual journey.