

Text, ESV: Ephesians 5.18-21

i. We're going to look at another one of Paul's long sentences, Ephesians 5.18-21

a I've considered sharing 2 different messages on these verses, there's so much

b However, I think it would be good to consider this thought the way Paul writes it

1st of all, Paul says what being Spirit led is not

2nd, Paul says what being Spirit filled is

3rd, he shares the how's and why's of a Spirit directed community

ii. Ephesians 5.18: Paul says what being Spirit filled is NOT

a To understand this passage, we should see the verbs are directly in contrast

1 They are both imperative commands: "do not get drunk . . . be filled"

2 They are also both passive verbs, and that shows the contrast

a) passive: I am not doing the action, someone or something is

b) passive can mean I'm yielding control to someone or something

c) The contrast is, What or Who am I yielding control to?

b Another point of this passage is that it's not all about drinking vs. the HS

1 It's about control, Paul is warning us not to yield control to anything else

2 The root word for "do not get drunk" can be any type of intoxication

3 This verse is also about something greater, it's about lifestyle choices

* "debauchery," is actually a strong word in the Greek. It can mean being a rioter, or even a *prodigal*. The prodigal takes a path that eventually sets him at odds with his father's house. If we keep yielding control to some things, it affects our lifestyle.

iii. Ephesians 5.18: Paul says what being Spirit filled IS

a Let's consider the verb "be filled:" there are 4 points about this verb

1 *Imperative* command: we're told to be filled with more of God

2 *Passive*: meaning that we're yielding control, the HS is filling us

* I think we often strive for the next blessing or answer, but this is a *passive* role. We sit at the feet of Jesus. We're not seeking an answer or doing something spectacular. We simply posture ourselves to receive, i.e. practices: fasting, solitude, listening, etc.

3 *Ongoing activity*: not a 1 time experience, but continual and repeated¹

* Williams: "Be continuously filled [or 'keep on being filled'] with the Spirit.' This is the call to a dynamic Christian life in the ongoing filling by God's Holy Spirit."²

¹ Stanley M. Horton, *What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit* (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1997), 244.

² J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology: Salvation, the Holy Spirit, and Christian Living* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1990), 202.

- 4 *Plural*: Filled is for all of the community of faith, Spirit-filled community
- b So being Spirit-filled, in the context, does not only refer to individuals
 - 1 It's referring to the corporate worship service, to Christian community
 - 2 After the worship service, Paul talks about HS-led homes, chapters 5-6
- c The worship setting, homes, and relationships, are all part of Spirit-filled living

Now that we understand being filled a little, let's look at the *What*, the *How*, and the *Why*

iv. WHAT is the Spirit's work among us? Ephesians 5.19

- a "addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs"
 - 1 *psalms*: refers to *psalms* from Hebrew Bible, called *tehillim*: praises³
 - 2 *hymns*: songs known by all⁴ Variety of hymns in the NT
 - 3 *spiritual songs*: There are at least 2 interpretations of this phrase
 - a) Spontaneous: HS leading, from 1 praise to another⁵
 - b) Prophetic: wisdom, understanding,⁶ HS inspired, or languages⁷
 - b This list gives us an idea of the WHAT? Various ways we praise God
- * Williams: "The exuberant praise of God with all one's heart flows out of being filled with God's Spirit."⁸

v. The verbs give us an idea of the HOW? HOW do we pursue Him?

- a **Ephesians 5.19-20**: All 4 verbs have at least 2 of the same qualities
 - b "addressing one another . . . singing and making melody . . . giving thanks"
 - c All 4 verbs are active - not passive - very important
 - 1 First Passive: when we yield control to the HS, filled with HS
 - 2 Now Active: our pursuit of God, we worship in all these areas of life
 - d All 4 verbs are ongoing activities (participles), practices we continue to do
 - 1 Honestly - Look at this list - We could be doing these things forever
 - 2 *addressing one another . . . singing . . . making melody . . . giving thanks*
- * Paul gives a glimpse of **WHAT** the HS wants to do, and **HOW** we pursue Him

vi. A last question we could ask is WHY? WHY would we together pursue HS?

- a The reason WHY we pursue the HS together is . . . b/c He transforms us

³ Horton, 244.

⁴ J. Rodman Williams, *Renewal Theology: the Church, the Kingdom, and Last Things* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992), 92-93.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Horton, 244.

⁷ Williams, *Renewal Theology: Salvation, the Holy Spirit, and Christian Living*, 218.

⁸ Ibid., 226.

Ephesians 5.18-21

JVI, Long Lake Church, 09.01.19, 3

b **Ephesians 5.21:** This is NOT a command, like the command to be filled w/ HS

1 It's voluntary! a CALL or SUMMONS, we can choose to accept or reject

2 *The voice of the Spirit calls us to a new level in our relationships*

3 If we answer the call, He draws us closer, and gives us to each other

c Isn't that just like the Spirit to end this beautiful passage with an INVITATION?

Benediction:

May we hear what the Spirit is saying to our church today

May we be filled with the Spirit as a way of life

Always encouraging each other with spiritual songs

Always singing

Always making melodies to the Lord

Always giving thanks to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ

And may we answer the Spirit's call to live humbly, constantly supporting each other