

WHY WE BELIEVE...

EPHESIANS 5:15-21

January 21, 2024

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

In Ephesians 5:1, Paul challenged the church in Ephesus to “imitate God.” Name a hero you remember having as you grew up. did you ever try to be like him/her?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Throughout 2024, periodically, we are going to cover sermons entitled, **“Why We Believe...”** Our hope is that this series will be thought-provoking as we do a deep dive into the core tenets of our faith as found in Scripture. In each of these sermons, we will address topics that the church is facing. Then we will examine these topics through the lens of Scripture - fostering a deeper understanding of how **our faith** shapes **our responses** to the challenges of the modern world.

Last week, we discussed **Romans 12:1-2**, and why our morality should not be shaped by the world/ by culture...basically how we are not to walk. **This week**, we will discuss how we [the church] is to walk - specifically when we are worshipping God with one another. The passage we will be in is **Ephesians 5:15-21**. In this passage, Paul describes a way we [the regenerate church] should walk and how we are to respond to one another. To help us live the way we [the church] are called to live, God has given us three helps: His Word, His Spirit, and His people. We need all of them. We lean on God's wisdom [His Scripture] as the foundation of everything we do. And we need to spend our time together [**in fellowship/ in koinonia**] lifting and growing one another in discipleship and sanctification - as we worship God together.

Have someone in your group read **Ephesians 5:15-21**.

Question 1: *Theologian Matthew Henry commented, “Those who are aware of their obligations to the mercy and grace of God will have their hearts enlarged in his praise.”*

- What do you think he means?
- Does this apply to our congregational singing on Sunday morning? How?

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Question 2: What is wisdom?

- According to the text, how does Paul describe how wisdom is gained? [**vss. 15-18** | look carefully how you walk; make best use of time; understand the will of the Lord; & don't get drunk]
- What do these verses [**15-18**] teach us regarding how unwise men and wise men live?

Question 3: Why do you think Paul used the phrase, “making the best use of time,” in connection with wisdom?

- What kind of activities redeem the time?

Question 4: How can we understand what the will of the Lord is?

Question 5: Is a believer allowed to drink alcohol?

- What is forbidden here? [drunkenness]
- How does the church live up to its calling when things like alcohol become a “stumbling block” for those who are new to the faith?

Question 6: When are we filled with the Spirit? [at regeneration | John 3:1-13 & Ephesians 1:13-14]

- What type of work is the Holy Spirit doing in and through after we have been regenerated/ saved?
- Are Paul’s commands in **verses 19-21** causes or results of being filled with the Holy Spirit, or both?
- What does Ephesians say about the Holy Spirit? [Have the class read the following verses if you have time: Ephesians 1:13–14; 1:16–18; 2:19; 2:22; 3:16–17; 4:3; 4:30; 5:18; 6:19]

Question 7: Ephesians 5:19-22 illustrates what the Spirit-filled life should look like: *in speaking to one another in psalms, by singing hymns and spiritual songs, by giving thanks always and for everything, and, by submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

- In what ways can First Baptist better live out Paul’s commands in this Scripture?
- What is the connection between Paul’s teaching on singing [vs. 19-20] and the verses which precede it [vss. 15-18]?
- Does **verse 19** imply that the life of fellowship in the church is like a “musical”?
- How do you make singing and worship a part of your daily life?
 - Why is this so important to others in your family and in the community?

Question 8: How would you describe the relationships at First Baptist if the members’ submitted to each other out of reverence for Christ [vs. 21]?

- How can “*submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ,*” be reflected through our congregational singing?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

At the end of the conversation, spend some time praying as a group. Here are some prompts:

- Spend some group time-sharing requests and praying specifically for them.
- Spend some time praying for FBC and that we would be encouraged and hopeful in how God is working in and through FBC Portland.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: [Ephesians 5](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: [Ephesians 5](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

