

## An Entirely New Way to Live

"(v.1) Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. (v.2) Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with him and learn a life of love.

Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.

(v.15) So watch your step. Use your head. (v.16) Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.

(v.17) Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life.

(v.18) Drink the Spirit of God, huge draughts of him. (v.19) Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ.

(v.20) Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. (v.21) Out of respect for Christ, be courteously reverent to one another."

Ephesians 5:1-2; 15-21

The Message

"(v.21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Ephesians 5:21

New International Version

The language of the text is descriptive,

beautiful,

emotional,

and revealing.

v.1—God is the pattern: **integrity**

v.2—Mostly what God does is **love**.

Keep company with God.

His love is **extravagant** . . . not to get something, but to give everything of Himself to us!

Love **like** that!

By referring to these days as evil, Paul was communicating his sense of urgency because of evil's pervasiveness. Sounds like today. We need the same sense of urgency because our days are also difficult.

V.15 So **watch** your step.

Use your **head**.

V.16 Make the most of every **chance** you get.

The summary sentence is simple.

V.16 Make sure you understand what the **Master** wants.

"For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life."

(I Thessalonians 4:7)

# 1 Don't **drink** too much wine. (v.17)

# 2 **Drink** the Spirit of God (v.18)

The call to be filled with the Spirit is a call to live in unity with the triune God and to enjoy the wholeness of life with God.

# 3 **Sing** hymns . . . . sing songs from your heart to Christ.

"Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our *Master*, Jesus Christ." (v.20)

# 4 **Submit** to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The Greek word translated "submit" literally means "arrange under." It is used of submitting to God's law (Rom. 8:7), of everything being subjected under Christ's feet (Ephesians 1:22), or of younger men being subject to older men (I Peter 5:5).

**KEY→** It is important to note that this text does ***not*** ask some Christians to submit to other Christians. It asks **all** Christians to submit to each other. There is no privileged group. We all submit. Christ is the prime example. Philippians 2:6-11

Make a great choice!