

Ephesians 5:15-18 Walk Circumspectly

Well today is Father's day!

Typically speaking: Mother's day gets a lot more attention in our society than Father's day!

A) For instance Mother's day was instituted by the U.S. congress in 1914 to always take place on the 2nd Sunday in May. – **A day to honor moms**

B) 58 YRS LATER – President Richard Nixon – in 1972 to be exact declared that the third Sunday in June would be set aside to Honor Dads –

1) It took 58 yrs later for Dads to get a little respect.

While flying from Denver to Kansas City, a woman overheard a mother speaking to her eight-year-old son. "Now remember — run to Dad first, then the dog."

A) Yes sometimes the Dog gets more love than dad!

B) AT&T reveals that On mother's day – **that phone calls home reach an all-time high.**

1) Do you know when the most **collect calls happen?** You guessed – FATHER'S DAY!

Mother's day: \$162 million dollars are spent on Mother's day cards - Father's day: \$ 110 million – **52 million dollar difference**

A) Yes but Pastor Rob – Your mom is the one who brought you into this world

B) True – **but dad is the one who can take you out of this world. – Ever said that?**

C) Mother's day we go all out – make a Reservation at the Fanciest Restaurant we can get into.

1) Father's day: **let the old man fire up the Barbecue**

D) Now I agree whole heartily with that – Moms are special –

1) Ladies in the church make up the heart Of the Church – sensitivity – emotion – care –

D) I would hate to see what this church would look like without your influence.

But as a Pastor – too be honest – I have always paid more attention to father's day.

A) This is why? Men are supposed to lead in the church – in the home.

B) **If the men are right the church is going to be right** 1) If the men are right ... the home is going to be right – our community is going to be right!

C) So when Father's day rolls around – I am usually praying hard –

1) Lord what do you want to say to the men @ CCV?

D) Well for this weekend – I didn't have to look any further than the passage before us – Ephesians

E) We left off at V.14 of Chapter 5 – where Paul has been continuing his discussion on the Walk of the believer

Recall that discussion began in Chapter 4:1 Walk manner worthy of your Calling – Your identity

A) This is who you are in Christ – Chapter 1-3 – let your walk reflect that reality

B) Walk in Unity, Walk different from when you were in the world!

1) Walk in Love, Last week walk in the light – not in the darkness

C) Today -Walk in Wisdom!

15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

Notice -Paul declares in V.15 that we are to **walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,**

A) **Circumspectly means carefully with precision, given to detail!**

B) Proverbs 14:16 – **The way of the fool is reckless and careless**

1) Opposite of Circumspect –

C) Let me tell you about a recent time where I walked foolishly.

D) It actually happened a few weeks ago.

A few weeks ago I flew to El Salvador to speak at a Pastors Conference.

A) I travel internationally for ministry purposes and to speak at Conferences a fair amount

B) By August of this year – I will have gone to 7 countries in a year's time.

C) So I consider myself to be a seasoned traveler

Well Flying into El Salvador – a few weeks ago for a short 3 day trip – only a 5 hour flight.

A) Now when I travel – I usually reduce what I normally carry in my wallet.

B) So in my wallet – I have 2 credit cards, no debit card and no cash.

C) What is the problem with that – Covered right

1) Wrong! – Why?

D) To get out of customs in El Salvador – you have to pay \$12 in cash at the booth or no entry.

1) Well I don't have any Cash – no debit card -

E) I can't remember the pins on my credit cards to get money out of the ATM – never do that.

1) Now to be fair – I can't remember the last time that I had to pay cash to enter a country

F) Been a long time!

Now I am trying to explain my situation and stupidity to the Customs officials

A) I tell them – there is someone right outside – who is picking me up – he can pay.

B) Do you know his name? No! Do you have his # no?

1) Do you know where you're staying – No – Hotel

C) They are picking me up I don't have all the details

Now I start calling everyone there that I have the numbers for – no one is answering – Stuck!!

A) I try to call my credit card company – won't go through

B) I am just stuck – by now an hour goes by –

1) I am sure the person who came to pick me up is thinking I missed my flight

C) Stranded at the airport in El Salvador – Dangerous place

1) On the USA list countries -careful to visit

D) On top of all that – One of the guys over there calls my assistant Amy – let her know – can't find Rob

1) Flight details ? Maybe they have it wrong

E) So Amy calls Denise – Rob is missing – Do you have his flight info

1) This is on Thursday – Tuesday Aaron's question

So how did I get out of this jam?

A) After going to stores in the airport – Purchase and Cash back?

B) I asked a stranger – American – borrow \$12

1) My story was so stupid it was actually believable

C) So there you have it – Walked foolishly – aimlessly – careless – not paying attention to details

1) I will always carry cash – always have my debit card and always – check entry requirements

D) Paul admonishes us to **walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,**

This is what I want us to consider today:

A) What does it look like to walk in Wisdom?

B) #1 To Fear the Lord!

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

C) What does it mean to fear God? Afraid of God?

D) Step out of line smack you – breaks go out on your car/ GOD FATHER – not the God who is your father

E) What then is the fear of the Lord?

Reverence – A sense of Awe! – Deep Respect

A) Think of God – He is awesome in his power and majesty

B) He is Holy – He is a consuming fire

1) But his heart is not to burn me up – but to burn in me – to brighten me up

C) Although – He is Holy Awesome – Majestic – he always presents this invitation to Know Him

1) To draw near to him –

It starts with the heart

A) It starts with walking carefully as it relates to His heart – heart care

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 NLT

B) He is paying attention to his heart

C) He has a heart that is after God – in love with God

D) His passion is to know Him and live in a deepened relationship with him

E) That Passion – results in a heart that desperately wants to please God because He/she loves him....

1) **Girl invited to the party – Dad**

What does it look like to walk in Wisdom?

#1 To fear the Lord

#2 To redeem the time

A) Redeeming the time: To make the most of His time for the Lord!

B) Take advantage of his time!

C) Time is a precious commodity –

1) Time is more valuable than money, because once spent it's gone forever.

D) Time clicks by at 1440 minutes each day. Rich or poor, we all get the same amount.

The Wise man or woman is going to have a strategy about how they spend their time.

A) Not going to go about life aimlessly – He realizes there is a purpose.

B) I am here on this planet for a purpose – Made to know God – glorify God with my life

1) That is going to be reflected in how I spend my time

C) Paul compared himself in 1 Corinthians 9 to a runner – Running to win the price –

1) Are you running just to run – or are you running to win!

D) Also Boxing – Aim – not just Air

1) There is a target

Question: What is the target you are aiming at in Life – what is your focus?

A) Get rich? Can't take it with you!

B) Pleasure? Doesn't last – always something else

C) Possessions – They don't stay new – always more

This is what Jesus Said: Matthew 6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

A) The Convicting word in that verse is the word FIRST – priority

B) What does it mean to seek first the Kingdom of God?

C) Seeking first the Kingdom is definitely going to involve – Seeking first the King

1) It means to prioritize God in every area of your life. Your relationship with Him comes first!

D) But this is bigger than that! -

1) But Jesus uses specific language here: ³³ **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

Jesus is describing a different mentality in living – a different pursuit that brings everything into place

A) TRUE NORTH – headed in the right direction/ this is going to help me fulfilling my purpose –

To Seek first the Kingdom is to Prioritize His Purpose

A) His Kingdom speaks of His Agenda – His Rule His heart –

B) To seek his righteousness is to Prioritize – His Way

C) It is remembering: I have been redeemed to be a part of His Kingdom – I have a Purpose.

D) I see and talk to too many believers who don't get this: They are merely existing in life – day to day

E) Here is the benefit - all these things will be added to you.

F) The necessities of life will be taken care of. Everything that others are worried about

1) You will have exactly what you need and what Your Father wants you to have.

What does it look like to walk in Wisdom?

#1 To fear the Lord

#2 To redeem the time

#3 To understand the days we are living in.

A) Paul describes the days in V.16 as Evil days

➤ **Evil days = "active evil" or evil in active opposition to good.**

B) The days are actively harmful, hurtful, evil in effect or influence.

C) The days that Paul was living in were Evil days

1) Roman oppression was hard – The Roman influenced world was full of decadence

2) Full of immorality of every sort.

What about the days that we are living in? Consider these statistics

A) In 2018 there were 41.9 million abortions performed worldwide.

B) Including over 892,000 in the United States and over 333,000 of those abortions were performed by planned parenthood.

C) Listen the Bible is clear that life begins at conception

1) Knew you in your mother's womb, fearfully and wonderfully made

D) Talking - 41.9 million babies killed –

- Violent crime overall has gone up by 41% nationally

- On average, **130** Americans die every day from an opioid overdose. That adds up to over 47,000 opioid related death per year.

- Every day, **29 people** in the **United States die** in motor vehicle crashes that involve an **alcohol-impaired driver**. This is one **death** every 50 minutes.

- **The Trafficking Of Women & Children Is The World's Fastest Growing Crime with an Estimated 24.9 Million People Trapped In Forced Labor Via Human Trafficking Worldwide.**

- On average, there are 321,500 victims (age 12 or older) of rape and sexual assault each year in the United States. One assault every 92 seconds.

We need to walk in Wisdom because the days we are living in are Evil days

A) If we are not walking carefully – we can easily get sucked into the evil that is around us –

B) The influence of Evil is growing all around us.

C) But as believers – our goal is not to retreat or stick our heads in the sand – Isolate –

1) Called to be in the world but not of the world

D) Influencers for God in the Evil

Romans 12:21 - **Be not overcome with evil / overcome evil w/ good**

Guys, it is easy if not walking carefully to be overcome by evil

A) Walking where there are pot holes in the road Traps - snares - he wants to see us stumble!

B) David took a break from the Battle – Gave into his lust – Bathsheba – Murder

C) Samson – wasted his God given potential and became overcome by evil –

1) Because he didn't walk carefully – He didn't Seek first the Lord

D)His first priority was always his own lust – his own comfort his own pleasure - -

The Wise man or women – Realizes – the days are evil – Evil enemy who wants to take me down.

17 Therefore (because the days are evil) do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.-
Walk..wisdom

A)So I need to walk carefully – I need to walk with precision

B)I need to pay attention to what is going on around me

C)I need to make wise choices about what I allow into my life.

D)There needs to be a precision to what I do and don't do –

1)There is going to need to be some thought into my liberties – my time – my hobbies

What does it look like to walk in Wisdom?

#1 To fear the Lord

#2 To redeem the time

#3 To understand the days we are living in. – Evil days

#4 To be filled with the Spirit

A)Don't be drunk with Wine – We call being drunk being under the influence of a substance

B)Don't be under the influence of wine – but be under the influence of the Holy Spirit

C)Filled" is the Greek word pleroma, which has a two meanings that apply here.

1)First, it could mean permeated.

D)Permeated is what happens to your cup of coffee when you put sugar into it.

1)It becomes permeated. – Cup of coffee is sweetened

A life that is being filled with the Holy Spirit is a life that is going to be permeated by the Spirit of God

A)God's spirit is going to be influencing – every area of your life – every relationship

B)It is what we would call be led by the Holy Spirit

God's Spirit is directing me

C)Sensitivity to His voice – His heart – paying attention to the Word

This can be hard for us especially for men because we tend to compartmentalize Our lives! –

A)We divide our lives up subconsciously into groups

B)On the one hand there is our spiritual life. Church, worship, giving, serving.

1)Some Sundays – others every day at least to start the day.

C)Then we have work – Pressure, duties, relationships, task to perform, money to make, problems to solve.

D)Family – Wife and my kids – they all have needs. Need time attention {Trying to juggle all of that.

E)Then if u are lucky – You have some hobbies – me time- Surf, golf, read books, play video games, watch tv programs.

And most men live in a way where those compartments rarely intersect.

A)Guy goes to work and the last thing he is thinking about is **what does God want me to do today.** – Why?

B)He knows what he is doing – it is his job – it is what he does – he is good at it – sense of worth...

C)His identity is there.

D)That is why from time to time someone will come to us in the church and who works for someone else in the church and say – that guy/gal is a radically different person at work then they are here.

E)And the problem is not necessarily that the guy is a hypocrite or that his faith is not genuine,

1)but rather – **he just hasn't learned to allow God's spirit to lead him in that area of his life.**

But when a Problem arises – he approaches it like he always has – doesn't pray, doesn't think about what Jesus would do! –

A)He handles it – **because that is what He does** – and it is who He is

B)Being led by the Spirit is allowing Jesus to permeate every area – every relationship

C)To prayerfully consider His heart before we act

D)I can say this – that is a conscious decision – the more you do it – the more it becomes a part

1)The more sensitive you become to the voice of the Holy Spirit in your heart

E)So that word Pleroma means to permeate – The man of woman walking in wisdom

1)Is a person who allows their life to be permeated by God's Spirit

But Pleroma is a word that also means to Empower

A)Pleroma is also the word that would be used to describe when the wind fills a sail!

B)The wind filling the sail is what powers the boat – it is moving –

1)The Holy Spirit of the living God wants to empower you and me – Live for Jesus

C)The man or woman who walks in Wisdom is one who is empowered by the Holy Spirit

Jesus told his Disciples –Acts 1 for the Power of the Holy Spirit – come upon them

A)He would empower them to Be His witnesses –

B)They were going to need the power of the Spirit of God working in and through their lives

1)To be all that he called them to be – and to do all that he called them to do

C)Likewise you and I need the Power of the Holy Spirit to be ...called us to be – do To do!

Romans 8:11 Paul tells us that the Power available to us From the Holy Spirit is the same Power -that brought Jesus forth from the dead

A)Supernatural Resurrection power

B)Note this- V.18 precedes the next section – Marriage/ Parenting -work warfare

C)Key verse – Because in order for you to be and do what God has called us to be and do – areas

1)We need help – We need His empowerment

V.18 reads this way – Be continually being filled

A)Not a one time filling – daily

B)Daily asking – Lord fill me today with your Spirit

Permeate and Empower me – Live for you!

C)Now the only way that you and I pray that prayer is if we recognize – our dependency/ **OUR NEED**

I can't be who Jesus has Called me to be without His Help –

A)The Wise man or woman – realize – Jesus said is true – John 15 without me – you can do nothing

B)Lord help me – Lord empower me

Walk in Wisdom: Dad/Mom/ Believer

#1 To Fear the Lord

#2 To Redeem the time

#3 To Know the Days

#4 To be continually Filled

17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.-

40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life. John 6:40

Eternal life – Quantity – Quality