

Sermon Notes

November 21, 2021
UIS Christianity
Ephesians 5:18–20
Pastor Jeff Hinds

Our Mission:

Helping people take the next step in one's relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Vision Statement:

Connect: *Connect through authentic community with other Christ-followers;*

Grow: *Grow in one's personal relationship with Jesus;*

Go: *Go and serve others sharing love and the gospel.*

1. God calls for His people to be thankful, both in times of plenty and in times of trouble (Philippians 1:12–18).
2. God calls for His people to avoid all forms of substance abuse that lead to an altered state of mind (Ephesians 5:18).
3. God calls for His people to “be filled” with His Spirit. This includes:
 - a. “To be filled with God’s Spirit” is a daily command for Christ-followers. The text is in the imperative—a command form. Personal sin gets in the way of “being filled with God’s Spirit.” We need to be confessed and repented-up in order for God to “fill us” (empower us by His Spirit) to faithfully do His bidding and will (Ephesians 5:18).
 - b. The Greek word for “filling” (plerao) is in the plural. All of God’s people, asking as we sincerely seek after God, can receive God’s empowerment to do His work (Ephesians 5:18).
 - c. The Greek word is passive—“be filled.” While we play a part through confession, repentance, obedience, and requesting, ultimately it is God who alone empowers us to do His work faithfully (Ephesians 5:18).
 - d. The verb is in the present tense—an iterative (repetitive) tense. We rightly ask God to fill us with His Spirit on a daily basis (Ephesians 5:18).
4. God calls for His people to major on worship and thanksgiving rather than criticism, anger, and hatred (Ephesians 5:18).

Sermon Questions

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CONNECT:

- What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

READ: Ephesians 5:18–20

GROW:

- Thankfulness is an antidote to complaining and grumbling. Would there be a noticeable change if your attitude toward popular topics of discussion (mandates, politics, government) was laced with thanksgiving? How would your friends and family react?
- Christ-followers are called to give thanks always. Is it (or has it been) difficult to embrace thanksgiving in certain circumstances or seasons? What are (were) the circumstances?
- According to our sermon this week, what is a barrier to being filled by the Spirit? In what ways can we remove that barrier?
- How can a lack of thankfulness in our lives turn into a judgmental attitude?
- Our sermon this week reminds us that thankful hearts do not compare themselves to others. Why? Is there an area in your life in which avoiding comparison is particularly hard?

GO:

- As we gather with friends and family this week, how can we show ourselves to be true worshippers of Christ?