

SERMON NOTE: Be Careful How We Live

By: Rev Raymond Ho

Bible Ref: Ephesians 5:15-33 NIV

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

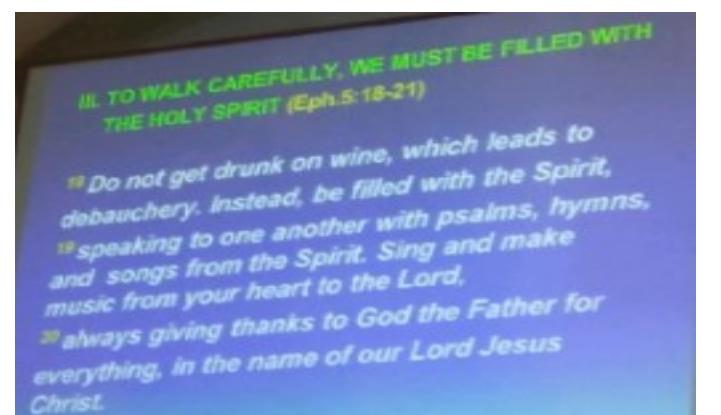
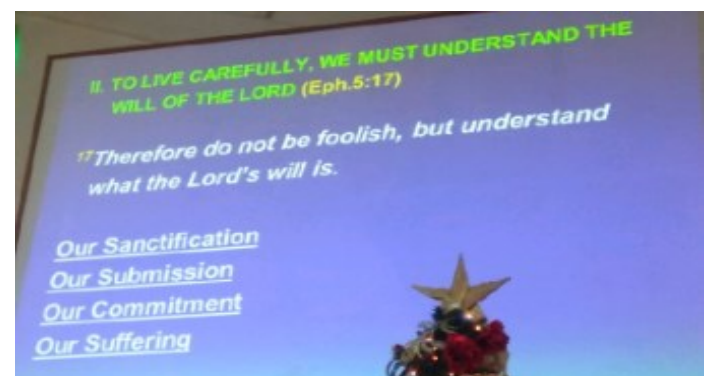
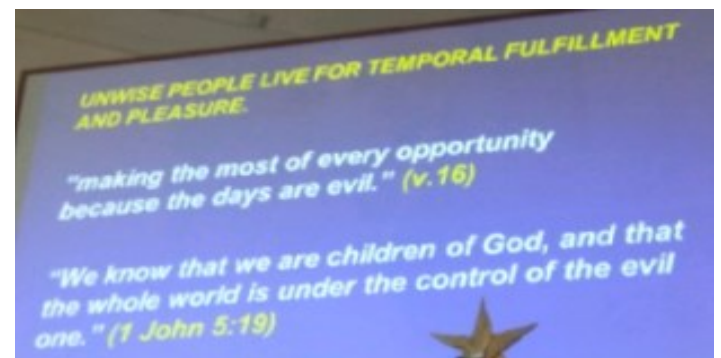
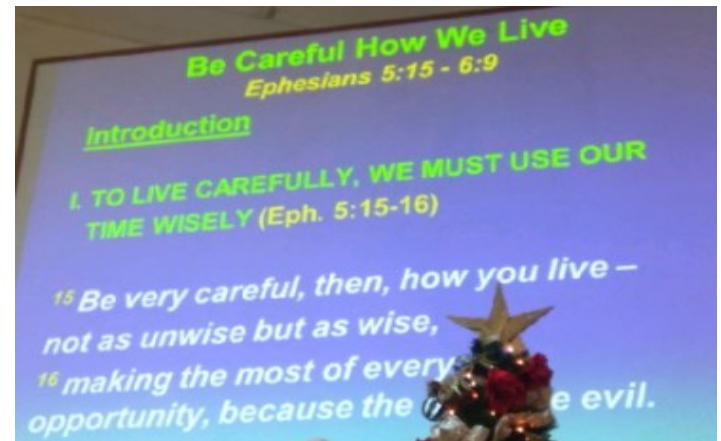
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Ephesians 6:1-9 NIV

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord,

not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

<https://bible.com/bible/111/eph.6.1-9.NIV>



III. TO WALK CAREFULLY, WE MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT (Eph. 5:18-21)

- ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,
¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord,
²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

A. BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT IS ONGOING AND REPEATED.

B. TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT RESULTS IN SINGING, THANKFULNESS, AND MUTUAL SUBMISSION IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS (5:19-21).

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"speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit" (5:19a)

"Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord" (5:19b)

2. THANKFULNESS

"always giving thanks to God the Father for everything" (5:20)

3. MUTUAL SUBMISSION

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (5:21)

a) Submission in the marriage relationship (5:22-32)

- ²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.
²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.
²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

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b) Submission in the family (6:1-4)

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³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

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⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

c) Submission in the workplace (6:5-9)

- 6 **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.
- 7 Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.
- 8 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,
- 9 because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

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13 "If I have denied justice to any of my servants, whether male or female, when they had a grievance against me,
14 what will I do when God confronts me?
What will I answer when called to account?
15 Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers? (Job 31:13-15)

Conclusion

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Do you see the results of the Spirit's filling in

- joyous singing,
- a thankful heart, and
- in submitting ourselves to one another and serve others in love?

If we are not living carefully, we are living dangerously!