

## Walk in Harmony; Ephesians 5:18-21

- I. Reckless Abandon
  - A. This phrase, or idea, is used more and more encouraging us to follow after our hearts' desires
  - B. "Give into your love with reckless abandon"
  - C. We are encouraged to use this kind of thinking as a way of life
  - D. Ephesians 5:18 (ESV); And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
    - 1. "Debauchery" — reckless abandon <sup>1</sup>
    - 2. This is the very kind of thinking and 'walking' that God admonishes us to stay away from
    - 3. We are not supposed to walk in reckless abandon, but in step with the Holy Spirit, "be filled with the Spirit"
  - E. To be in step with the Spirit is to...
    - 1. Walk in Love
    - 2. Walk in Light
    - 3. Walk Carefully
    - 4. Walk in Harmony
- II. Speak to Each Other
  - A. Ephesians 5:19–20 (ESV); <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
  - B. "Addressing" — to utter words, talk, speak, the act of speaking <sup>2</sup>
  - C. You can't watch even a TV show today without hearing some kind of profanity
    - 1. Even shows geared towards our children have coarse humor and language in them
    - 2. But, we will be held accountable for our speech
    - 3. Matthew 12:34–37 (ESV); <sup>34</sup> You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. <sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. <sup>36</sup> I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, <sup>37</sup> for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
  - D. We have to change our vocabulary
    - 1. Colossians 4:6 (ESV); Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.
    - 2. We have to start speaking to each other the way God has spoken to us (in His Word)
    - 3. Ephesians 4:29 (ESV); Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
  - E. Take note of "with your heart" — we just read in Matthew 12:34, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."
    - 1. Matthew 15:18–20 (ESV); <sup>18</sup> But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone."
    - 2. It is normal that what we say to each other gets us cross-ways with one another
    - 3. We say things that cause hurt feelings

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<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 148.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 582.

4. "Make sure your brain is engaged before putting your mouth in gear"
5. "Unfortunately there is no backspace on our mouth"
- F. To walk in harmony with one another is to address each other with mercy and grace — with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs

### III. Submit to Each Other

- A. What a hard concept for us to emulate
- B. Ephesians 5:21 (ESV); submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- C. We have arbitrarily assigned a higher value to the one to whom we submit than to the one doing the submitting
  1. This is how the feminist movement got started — "man is not more important than woman. Women can do anything a man can do, but better"
  2. We have assigned value incorrectly
  3. Galatians 3:26–28 (ESV); <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. <sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
  4. We cannot walk in harmony as long as we value one person over another based on our God given roles
- D. Paul gives several examples of submission to one another
  1. Marriage — and he equates that to the Church and Christ — Ephesians 5:22-33
    - a) Jeremiah 31:31–32 (ESV); <sup>31</sup> "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord.
  2. Parenting — Ephesians 6:1-4
  3. Working relationships — Ephesians 6:5-9
- E. Paul finishes this idea the way he began (though in a different thought) — submit to one another, we are all equal in God's eyes — "there is no partiality with Him"

### IV. Walk in Harmony

- A. Walk in love — a self-sacrificing love thinking of others before yourself
- B. Walk in light — the light of righteousness that God has given us
- C. Walk carefully — discerning what is, and conforming to, God's will
- D. Walk in Harmony — addressing each other with God's word, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ