

- I. The New Life
  - a. Last week we talked about ‘putting off your old self’
  - b. Getting rid of things that belonged to our ‘former manner of life’
    - i. Lying
    - ii. Anger
    - iii. Stealing
    - iv. The way we talk
  - c. This week we will talk about ‘putting on the new self’
- II. Wise
  - a. Ephesians 5:15–16 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.
  - b. Walk is a metaphor for how we live
  - c. Carefully – pertaining to strict conformity to a standard or norm, with focus on careful attention, *accurately, carefully, well*<sup>1</sup>
  - d. God wants us to focus on, pay careful attention, conform to His standards and norms
  - e. Then God separates His norms from the world’s; the world’s are unwise, His are wise
    - i. 1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV) <sup>26</sup> For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.
    - ii. In the previous set of text Paul compares worldly wisdom to Godly wisdom
    - iii. 1 Corinthians 1:20–23 (ESV) <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,
    - iv. 1 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.
    - v. Make no mistake, God’s wisdom is the only wisdom we need to cultivate
  - f. We have to focus on, pay careful attention, conform to God’s standard – that is wisdom!
- III. Understand
  - a. Ephesians 5:17 (ESV) <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

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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), 39.

- b. Lack of prudence or good judgment, *foolish, ignorant* <sup>2</sup>
    - i. "Understand what the will of the Lord is"
    - ii. To have an intelligent grasp of something that challenges one's thinking or practice, *understand, comprehend* <sup>3</sup>
    - iii. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (ESV) <sup>3</sup> For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;
    - iv. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
    - v. 1 Peter 2:13–17 (ESV) <sup>13</sup> Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup> or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. <sup>15</sup> For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. <sup>16</sup> Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. <sup>17</sup> Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
      - 1. 1 Peter was written during Emperor Nero's reign (the AD 60s)
      - 2. ""Therefore, to stop the rumor [that he had set Rome on fire], he [Emperor Nero] falsely charged with guilt, and punished with the most fearful tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were [generally] hated for their enormities... In their very deaths they were made the subjects of sport: for they were covered with the hides of wild beasts, and worried to death by dogs, or nailed to crosses, or set fire to, and when the day waned, burned to serve for the evening lights." <sup>4</sup>
      - 3. This brings the statement, "to the emperor as supreme" into a completely different context
      - 4. This also sheds more light on the statement "living as servants of God"
    - vi. 1 John 2:15–17 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.
  - c. Whatever society tells us is wisdom, we ignore
  - d. We obey God, understand and do His will
- IV. Filled
- a. Ephesians 5:18–20 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 159.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 972.

<sup>4</sup> Nero Persecutes The Christians, 64 A.D., " EyeWitness to History, [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com) (2000).

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. Filled – *fill* with powers, qualities, etc. <sup>5</sup>
    - i. Galatians 5:19–25 (ESV) <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
    - ii. Here we see the wisdom of the world at work
    - iii. Galatians 5:22–25 (ESV) <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.
    - iv. Here we see God’s wisdom at work within us
  - c. Keep in step with the Spirit
    - i. To live as the Spirit would have us live
    - ii. To work on the characteristics that God calls the “fruit of the Spirit”
    - iii. Galatians 5:16 (ESV) <sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
  - d. Give thanks always and for everything
    - i. This is such a hard thing for us to accomplish
    - ii. We want to complain and ‘right’ ‘wrongs’ that we perceive we have received
    - iii. We want to escape persecution and hard living (get rich quick schemes abound) for soft easy chairs and 75” flat screen TVs
    - iv. 1 Peter 4:1–2 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, <sup>2</sup> so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.
    - v. 1 Peter 4:12–13 (ESV) <sup>12</sup> Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.
    - vi. 1 Peter 4:19 (ESV) <sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.
  - e. “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God” (1 Th. 5:18)
- V. The New Life
- a. We live according to God’s wisdom
  - b. We study to understand God’s will for us

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<sup>5</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 828.

c. We live by the Spirit