

Building Up One Another

Lesson 9 • Taken from a Study by Gene Getz

Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:15-21)

- The believer is to “live” in a certain way (cp. 4:1):
 - Paul uses the word “_____” to describe the believer’s daily routine or lifestyle (“live in a way” [CEV] ... “live a life” [NIV] in 4:1)
 - The motivation for godly living is the _____ of God – the believer is a “_____” & when gathered in a local geographic area, they are the εκκλησία (i.e. the local church)
 - There are 3 contrasts that help us understand what this means:
 - Not as _____, but as wise (vv. 15-16) – this is someone who comprehends the _____, or God’s gracious purposes in Christ (See 1:7-10).
 - Not as _____, but understanding the will of God (vs. 17) – the believer is to embrace the Lord’s will and “understand its _____ for their day-to-day living.” (O’Brien, The Letter to the Ephesians, pg. 385)

What are the characteristics of the foolish in Proverbs?

“The ‘will of God’ is closely related to, even identified with, God’s gracious saving plan and, as a significant element of this, the formation of a people into the likeness of Christ who will be pure and blameless on the final day.” (O’Brien, The Letter to the Ephesians, pg. 386)
 - Not _____, but filled **by** the Spirit (vs. 18-21) – the believer, in keeping with his _____ by God, is expected to be _____ **by** the Spirit and not his own sinful, destructive _____. (cp. 2:1-3)

- How do we live this out within the εκκλησία (i.e. the local church)?
 - There are 5 participles that _____ the continual “controlling” by the Spirit – these participles focus on the _____ nature of fleshing out God’s intention with His people (... the “mystery”).
 - *Speaking, singing, making music, giving thanks, and submitting* is to be done before _____ and by the control of the _____.

What are the added benefits of a music ministry in the local church?

- Submitting to one another is how believers in the local church evidence the _____ of the Spirit as He works in us to _____ and _____ of God’s good pleasure (Php. 2:13).
 - *Submitting* means “to _____ under”, and Paul suggests that such arrangement is for the _____ of the entire assembly of “called-out ones”.

“Moreover, within the fellowship of the church (and Paul has this more prominently in mind than the community at large) this submission to others is reciprocal (“to one another,” allēlous). No one is to coerce another, for all voluntarily accept the discipline. Hence, any delusions of superiority are banished and no one thinks of himself more highly than he ought.”(Expositor’s Bible Commentary)
 - Submission in the local church is a matter of _____, not _____ (See Mark 10:42-45, Rom. 15:1-2, and 1 Cor. 10:24).
 - It is our _____ for Christ that ought to drive the relationships we forge with one another. (vs. 21)

What comes to mind when first exposed to the idea of submitting to one another? How do we encourage this thinking or how do we discourage it?

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