

**Frisco First Baptist Church**

EPHESIANS- FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST • FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT • EPHESIANS 5:18-21 • 11/3/2024

# MAIN POINT

We are in an 11-week series on Ephesians. As we explore the depth of Paul's letter, we are reminded of why the Lord planted Frisco First Baptist Church in the heart of Frisco: to invite people into relationships with Jesus and each other. We do this by creating an environment where you belong; we become like Jesus together, and others beneﬁt from our sharing. Today, we will focus on:

The Holy Spirit gives us full conﬁdence that we are the Lord’s and leads us into communion with His Son.

# INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

**What is one of the greatest gifts someone has ever given to you? What made it so special?**

**When someone gives you an especially thoughtful or splendid gift, are you excited to tell others about it? How does your gratitude and enjoyment of the gift reﬂect on the giver?**

Think about how excited a woman is to show oﬀ her engagement ring. The excitement isn’t just about how much the ring cost but what the gift symbolizes. By showing oﬀ the ring, the woman is really showing her delight in the love that she has found. However, the best gifts are not always the most expensive. Sometimes, an inexpensive but thoughtful gift makes us feel loved and appreciated because the giver paid attention to what we like or need. Salvation is certainly the greatest gift that any of us have ever received. God gave us His only Son who was cruciﬁed for our sins. This is a tremendous gift. On the third day, Jesus demonstrated His victory over sin and death by rising from the dead, and He

promises eternal life to anyone who will repent and believe in Him. This is such love, such joyous news, that we cannot keep it to ourselves. The Holy Spirit ﬁlls our hearts to help us boast about our God and the deep love He has shown to us in Jesus Christ.

# UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:18.

**Why do you think that Paul contrasts getting drunk with being ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit? What are the diﬀerences between the two?**

When we are ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit, we gain discernment, grace, compassion, and wisdom. When someone is inebriated, they lose discernment, grace, compassion, and they act foolishly. When we are ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit, we boast in the things of Christ, and through His convicting power we are humbled. Drunk people boast arrogantly, think that they are bullet proof, and generally become focused on themselves.

**What do you think it means to be ﬁlled by the Holy Spirit? How do we get ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit?**

Being ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit means living as God would have us live. We live each day in submission to Christ and seek to give Him the glory in all that we do. The way we are ﬁlled by the Holy Spirit is by studying God’s Word and praying. One of the ways the Holy Spirit builds us up is through the encouragement of other believers.

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:19.

**Who are we supposed to be “speaking to” when we sing in worship? Why is it that we do not often think of the aﬀect our worship has on fellow believers?**

**What kinds of songs should we sing to the Lord? How might the application help us in churches divided over music choice?**

Unfortunately, many in worship services think that they sing only to an “audience of One.” The Lord, however, is not the only One who is listening. When we sing, we ought to sing to the Lord and to the people around us. Not only is the Lord pleased to receive our worship, but our brothers and sisters around us are encouraged by our singing as well.

The Holy Spirit works through us to minister to others in the church through our worship of Christ.

Paul makes it clear that many kinds of songs are acceptable worship to the Lord by including psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. We all have one “style” that we may prefer over another, but Paul encourages us to make use of them all. Remember, our singing is not only for the Lord, but also for the encouragement of those around us. Being humble enough to sing even when the song may not be our favorite is the kind of humility a person ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit would display.

## HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EPHESIANS 5:20-21.

**What can these verses teach us about what it means to be ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit? What might we learn about the Trinity from this passage?**

**How do we submit to one another? What is “the fear of Christ”?**

These verses help us understand how we interact with each member of the Trinity in our worship. First, Paul tells us to be ﬁlled by the Holy Spirit. When we are ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit, we are reminded that God is our Father (Rom. 8:15). The Spirit also leads us to glorify Christ (John 16:14). Being ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit, we are able to thank the Father for everything, especially for sending us His Son to save us from our sins. With the Spirit, we can come to the Father in worship in the name of Jesus because Jesus’ sacriﬁce cleanses us from all our sins. Paul teaches us to “consider others as more important than [ourselves]” (Phil. 2:3). When we truly believe that we are servants of Christ, we will esteem our brothers and sisters above ourselves. Our goal will be to serve them. With this attitude, we will delight in encouraging and working for the betterment of the church.

Such service is pleasing to God, and such humility is a sign that we are indeed ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit.

# APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

**What are some things we can do to “be ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit”?**

**How important do you think variety of song might be to our worship gatherings?**

**What are some ways that we, as a people ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit, might serve one another with the gifts that the Holy Spirit empowers?**

# PRAYER

During a time of group prayer, thank the Father for the gifts that He has given us, both in the sending of His Son and in the sending of the Holy Spirit. Ask the Father to ﬁll us with the Spirit that we might worship Him in spirit and in truth.

# COMMENTARY

## EPHESIANS 5:18-21

5:18. Ephesus was a center of pagan worship and ritual. The Ephesian culture worshiped Baccus, the god of wine and drunken orgies. They believed that to commune with their god and to be led by him, they had to be drunk. In this drunken state, they could determine the will of their god and determine how best to serve and obey him.

Paul was talking about how to commune with the God of heaven, how to live for Him, how to serve and obey Him, how to determine His will. It was natural for Him to draw the contrast between how the god of Ephesus is served and how the God of heaven is served. With the God of heaven, you do not get drunk with wine. Rather, you are ﬁlled with the Spirit. Being drunk with wine leads to the sexual sins and immorality of darkness described above. By being ﬁlled with the Spirit, you can determine God’s will and serve Him faithfully in moral living.

What does it mean to be ﬁlled with the Spirit? Some interpreters equate this command with instances of being ﬁlled with the Spirit in the Book of Acts in which miraculous things happened: people spoke in tongues; prophecies and visions were given; people were healed. “Be ﬁlled” in this verse is not the same word as the one used in the Book of Acts, nor are the consequences the same. Rather than understanding this command in verse 18 to have anything to do with miraculous or extraordinary happenings, it is better to understand it in context. In this ethical context, it means directed, inﬂuenced, and ultimately governed by the Holy Spirit. This ﬁlling, then, is best understood, as a command for the believer to yield himself to the illuminating, convicting, and empowering work of the Holy Spirit. As He works in our hearts through His Word, our lives are brought into conformity with the will of God (v. 17).

5:19-21. Four Greek participles—”speak, make music” (melodying), “giving thanks” (thanking), and “submit” (subjecting)—in verses 19-21 modify the verb “be ﬁlled” of verse 18, describing the person ﬁlled with the Holy Spirit. The ﬁrst two participles suggest the importance of music and Scripture in being ﬁlled with the Spirit. An attitude of gratitude is a third characteristic of being ﬁlled with the Spirit. Finally, an attitude of mutual submission among believers is a characteristic of being ﬁlled with the Spirit.