

Connected-My Life in the Church
Lesson 5: Connected In Service
Lesson Text: Ephesians 5:15-21
Background Scripture: Matthew 20:25-28

Question: Would you rather serve or be served?

Serve: to minister, to render service i.e. supply food and necessities of life to relieve one's necessities (e.g. by collecting alms), to provide take care of, distribute, the things necessary to sustain life, to take care of the poor and the sick,

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, (Col. 4:5)

16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Romans 12:2; Col. 1:9-10)

Ephesians 5:18

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, (Prov. 20:1; 23:30-35; Galatians 5:22-23)

Filled with the Spirit: (v. 18) "Spirit" here is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Being filled with the Spirit reflects being under His leadership and empowerment.

Ephesians 5:19-21

19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, (Acts 16:25-26; Psalms 34:1)

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. (Phil. 2:3-4; Peter 5:5-7)

Life Application Questions

- Has anyone been a model of wisdom in your life?
- What are the implications of being filled with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?
- What changes can we make in order to serve the way God wants us to?
- What does it mean to submit to one another in the context of a local church?

Live It Out

Submission is countercultural in the world today, which means it can be tough to bend our will to God's will and especially to other members in the body of Christ. But it's worth it. Because the church is not about us!

- **Jump in:** work with leaders in your church to identify a ministry in which your service will meet a need. Then take the plunge and serve with wisdom.