
Sermon Notes

July 17, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Submit to One Another

Ephesians 5:18-21

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Submit to One Another

- ❖ The call to submit to one another is inevitably misunderstood by those who hold themselves apart from the truth of Scripture
 - submission is a lifestyle intent on imitating Jesus
 - submission is only possible when we are filled with the Spirit
- ❖ Before Paul sounds the command for us to be filled with the Spirit, he takes a brief look at its opposite

The Opposite of Being Filled With the Spirit

- ❖ *Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery*
 - why/how is this the opposite of being filled with the Spirit?

- why does the Spirit inspire Paul to choose this example rather than any number of other sinful behaviors?
- ❖ The ancient, pagan religions of Paul's day
 - contact with deities was supposedly made when one entered into a drunken state
 - the reason why in Acts 2 many suppose the Apostles are drunk when they begin preaching the gospel in other languages
- ❖ This **IS NOT** how we communicate with and reflect our God to the world around us!
 - we are controlled by an internal power, a mind controlling power: the Holy Spirit
 - as God's Spirit shines the spotlight on the truth and life changing power of God's Word, we enjoy relationship and fellowship with a personal, loving, living God

Be Filled with the Spirit

- ❖ Being *filled with the Spirit* is not a one time thing
- ❖ Scripture's word picture of what it means to be *filled with the Spirit*
 - a glass filled with water??? [static]
 - a sail filled with wind! [dynamic]
- ❖ Being *filled with the Spirit* is meant to be continuous
 - continuously controlled by the influence of the Holy Spirit
 - continually under the dominating influence of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Sin takes the Holy Spirit's wind out of our sails
 - if we confess and repent of our sin...
 - God is faithful to forgive our sin and fill our sails again

What Does Spirit Filled Living Look Like?

- ❖ Our lives will be marked by the Spirit's power as we offer heartfelt worship and thanksgiving (vv. 19-20)
 - living a life of worship is supernatural
 - being enabled to live a life of worship is a gift of God to us that we turn right around and offer back to Him
- ❖ Our lives will demonstrate the Spirit's power as we submit *to one another out of reverence for Christ*
 - submit = "line up under" (like soldiers placing themselves under their general)
 - someone or something has authority over me/us; someone else is in charge

Christ Exalting Relationships

- ❖ Being filled with the Spirit has a dramatic impact on the kind and quality of relationships we share with one another
 - there is a new power at work in these relationships
 - love, honor, and respect are designed to be at the core of every kind of relationship
 - every Spirit-filled believer needs to be a humble, submissive follower of Jesus

- ❖ In Christ, we have equal standing before God, BUT in matters of role and function, God makes distinctions
 - rulers over the people they rule
 - leaders over the church
 - husbands over wives
 - parents over children
 - employers over employees
- ❖ Jesus, the perfect example of submission
 - in His humanity: to His parents
 - in His divinity: to His Father's plan
- ❖ A submitted life is the sign of a Spirit-filled life
- ❖ A submitted life is an act of worship (*i.e. out of reverence for Christ*, cf. 1 Peter 2:13)
- ❖ Submission is not putting oneself in the position of being abused or treated as a doormat, shutting off one's brain, or subverting one's gifts

Personal Reflection

1. What evidence do you see that you are filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit? In what areas do you need to more fully submit to His leadership?
2. How do you respond to the Bible's teaching about someone else having authority over you? Do you struggle with the idea that "someone else is in charge" in certain relationships?
3. Is your life marked by heartfelt thanksgiving and worship? Is it marked by appropriate submission to God ordained authority? Where do you need to grow in respect to these?