

LifeGroup Questions
Based On: Ephesians 5:15-16
January 6, 2019

Overview

The main point of this passage can be found in the first part of Ephesians 5:15: "Be careful how you live." Everything else from Ephesians 5:15-20 describes how you are to live. Careful living means being wise not unwise. This is easy to write, but what does wise living look like? I can tell my kids all day long to make wise choices, but they usually only live in the moment and don't think long term. For them, in the moment, every decision is considered wise.

Ephesians 5:15 is almost repeated in verse 17. To live wisely and not foolishly is to know the will of God. Why was living carefully important in Ephesus? We know a lot about the city of Ephesus. The beginning of the church is recorded in Acts 19. The Apostle Paul spent three years in this city. In the beginning people repented and burned books of magic. In total they burned about 50,000 day's wages worth of scrolls. The main temple in Ephesus was the one to Artemis. This was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. Besides Artemis there were over 50 temples to other false religions in Ephesus. Romans really didn't care what you believed as long as you didn't say your religion was the best and only one.

It is in this environment that the Apostle Paul tells the church to live carefully. They could have just come together and done church then gone on with their week living like they always had in the past. If they had done this no one would have probably even known they were Christians. What you believe determines how you live. Change comes from the inside out not the outside in. Living according to God's will means to not just live in the moment. It means your actions need to represent your faith. The following from verses from 15-20 give examples of what it means to live wisely.

Bible Study: Ephesians 5:15-16

1. How would you define careful living?
2. In what way does how you live reflect what you believe?
3. Read Colossians 4:5. Just like in Ephesians, living carefully, means to make the most of every opportunity. How do you know if you are making the most of every opportunity?

4. In what ways can living only in the moment be considered unwise?

5. The church in Ephesus was trying to distinguish themselves from every other religion in town. A religion can change your behavior, but a relationship can change your heart. Why is one of the first steps to living carefully building your relationship with God?