

Ephesians 14-11-16b

We pick up our study now in Ephesians chapter 5. We're looking at verse 18 be not drunk with wine wherein is a soria dissipation a rather hopeless downward effect but by way of contrast be filled with the spirit now again, the context the reason we started back in the Earlier section here is that this is the difference between unwise and wise living It's one thing to say be wise I Could end church right now. We're done close your Bibles go be wise Just be wise Come on Don't be don't be unwise be wise Well, it's helpful I think to have some notion of how do I be wise how can I? Insert wisdom into my thinking because maybe I'm not just over blessed with a natural Gift for knowing exactly the right thing to do or to say or to be and This particular kind of wisdom is in a realm all by itself because this is the wisdom of pleasing God this is the wisdom of knowing what the will of the Lord is and That's pretty tall for those of us who were made out of mud So how do we live a wise life? How do we redeem the time? Out of the evil marketplace of days This is how you do it We make a choice anytime there is a command there is a choice This is a fundamental principle of Scripture. It doesn't make any sense to people in the postmodern world.

Thankfully you and I were trained in the thinking that characterizes the modern world not the postmodern world where logic functions where facts intersect to create meaningful Conclusions if we are given a command It is a Choice and it is a doable thing God in heaven made us he knows exactly of what we are capable You find this out in military training generally speaking especially Military training that pertained in days gone by I don't know what they do now. I make no vouch Safing for how it is done But I was impressed in the days of my own training to discover that those who were conducting the training knew More than I did about what I was capable of especially physically I would think There is no way I can complete this obstacle course. There is no way I can run another mile There is no way I can do another set of sprints There's no way I can do another set of push-ups.

There's no way Heinz lens out there on the AstroTurf field Pressing us as plebes Day by day by day with the pep program the pep stand for physical Exercise program or some such thing Anyway, they just called it pep and you went out there for pep and there's Heinz up there And he was like some sort of German tyrannical Taskmaster Requiring of us the impossible every morning you get up you go out there and you're wearing your PT gear wearing your useless kids basketball shoes to run in and You're gonna do another set of these you're gonna do another set of these and I would think there is no way the muscles Simply will not contract again. It's over. I'm done But surprisingly enough Heinz knew more than I did about what the plebe body is capable of and amazingly, I Would function where my brain was fully convinced that it wouldn't out of fear and a Conspiracy of other factors.

I did what I was sure I could not do and you begin to realize that your brain will lie Your mind will lie and will tell you things that just aren't true Something bad is gonna happen. If you run another step you must stop now Even in in more severe cases of training you can be convinced that you're About to die and The people who are conducting the training. No, you're not gonna die They won't let you die.

But even though you might think you know that there are Extremes and episodes where you can't get that knowledge back into your thinking all you can feel and think is I am about to die well, this is a truth and so We have a choice anytime there is a command given whether it is by

your plebe pep instructor But more particularly and especially when it is the Lord God in heaven giving a command That means two things it is doable God does not command us to do the impossible and it is a choice where there is a command if There was no choice. Why would the command be given? The command is given because there is a response expected There is a response required, but you can disobey You can be standing there with your rifle in Ranks and they can say right phase, you know, you're at order arms and they say right phase you can choose not to obey You'd be stupid not to But there are people who have just gone into passive resistance and they refuse to follow any orders They end up in the brig and eventually they end up in prison But there is a choice So this says do not be drunk with wine wherein is Asotia dissipation downward corrupt excess we've seen that in great detail, but be filled with the spirit Be filled this is an imperative. This is a command.

So guess what it is a choice and It is something that you can choose not to do as a believer You can be saved and not be filled with the spirit now I'm functioning at a real basic level here But you would be amazed at the lack of logic and the lack of simple conclusion drawing that now permeates our society there are people who just Take one and one and say, you know, I've got This number and I have another number and they can't add them. They can't draw any conclusions from them. They can't You know think therefore be It's it's just astonishing the lack of coherence that is Increasingly taking over every different part of our society God says don't do this do this don't Gratify yourself to excess That is a downward destructive trend Be filled with the spirit These are in contrast to one another it is either or you cannot be Fulfilling the desires of the flesh seeking out pleasure and self gratification Worshiping in the holy temple of the unholy Trinity me myself and I I Will make myself feel good.

I will set the standards. I will decide what is right. I will decide what is good If I feel good, it is good Etc Do not Be by the way when you are drunk with wine how contact How much in contact with reality are you? Your perceptions are Distorted your reactions are dulled.

This is why drunk driving is a crime Drinking does not make you better doesn't make you funnier doesn't make you more intelligent Doesn't make you sharper doesn't make you more useful for any given purpose. All it does is a short period of self gratification followed by insensibility uselessness and dependence upon others You are a drag You are a downward corrupting a sotia Presence Nobody says, you know what we really need in this country is more drunks Think what our community could be if we just had more drunks. I think we had a handout free wine Let's you know, let's get some people drunk.

It's this this down-in-the-mouth lack of optimism. We could fix that. Let's hand out free wine Right It is doable and it is a choice to be filled with the spirit it is a command Now, why is it set in contrast to being drunk with wine? We're in is an excess? Because look at the results Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual song notice how everything that follows.

This is musical psalms hymns spiritual songs singing Making melody in and from your hearts to the Lord What does the typical drunken party involve? If they ever depict one in the movies if you've ever been to one, what's the first thing that hits you in the face? well, one of the first things that hits you in the face when you open the door to Any kind of a heavy drinking party frat party sorority party What happens you open the door? What do you hear? Somebody has

got the stereo turned up to 11, right? You don't go in to dead silence. People aren't just quietly drowning their sorrows. They're not sitting there.

Excuse me. Got another beer Is there is there any mind left? It's it's loud, right? It's boisterous. Why? To give the impression that we are really having a good time now, let's dance.

Let's cavort. Let's get happy We will overstimulate our senses in every way we're going to overstimulate our nervous system with substance of various shape sizes and descriptions, we're going to overstimulate our eyes with Various states of undress we're going to overstimulate our ears with excessively loud music It is a desire for maximum stimulation Overstimulation do something to me that I don't ordinarily get I want an experience of some kind Overwhelm me in every way. I just want to be overwhelmed with Whatever you got right in contrast the wise person the thinking person the person who looks ahead who wants to be productive and fruitful rather than Unproductive and a drain and a drag and a dependent sycophantic parasite This is a choice You can be filled with a desire for self-gratification or you can be filled with a desire to please God Look at the contrast you can still be singing and making melody But it's in your heart.

It is a genuine Appreciation it is a genuine and lasting effect. It is up lifting It is up building it is mutually beneficial Notice this is done in the company of others Addressing one another It doesn't say go be filled with the spirit and run off into a wood somewhere and commune with nature Go to the golf course and practice your putting What does it say address one another? This is not a false Bond So, let's see. I went to a horrible debauch three weeks ago and got insanely Knee-walking drunk threw up all over everything other people were throwing up Wretching and crashing cars and knocking stuff over the police were called.

I got out of the drunk tank and went home it's three weeks later and I'm I Have a legitimate need here. I need some assistance. I need some help.

I could use some some Companionships and some fellowship who was at that party who? Got as drunk as I did. Who could I call from that? Vomit fest and and that You know Hail fellow well met. We're all drunk together Who who was one of the other guys in the drunk tank? because we're now bound together with the bonds of camaraderie and and Investment in one another and commitment to one another and faithfulness to one another because we just got Gut-wrenchingly drunk together three weeks ago.

Let me call that guy Do you see the contrast that Paul is setting up here if you are filled with the spirit instead of a sotia instead of destruction? corruption downtrend Malignancy Darkness and evil it is up building you speak to one another in something that is helpful Something that binds together you have a family that transcends accidents of birth accidents of geography accidents of biology This is what I don't get you think about the atheistic world ah That us know God What is one of the simplest definitions of God in the Bible? It's a three-word statement. God is what? God is what? Love right God commend us his Commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died God so loved the world That he gave his only begotten Son greater love hath no man than this that he lay down his life for a friend God is love the whole aspect an area and environment of relationship with God is love right and What how does that love work? What is our love sourced in? What is your love rooted and grounded in? Your sacrificial toward self beneficial toward others love. What is it sourced and rooted in? It is in God You love because he first Loved us right we love because he first loved it is our faith It is our relationship with God

that enables us to have genuine love now if you are ah that us and You believe there is no God What is your love based on do you love your family? Why Why should you love your family any more than you love any other person? It's an as a complete evolutionary accident of birth The two people before you had anything to say about it got together and a child was produced and you're it but That's just a complete accident.

Why should you love those people more than than somebody else? Just because you happen to be in the family that doesn't make sense. It does not compute. It is not rational It's irrational Where does your love come from? Well, it's it's it's a love of convenience.

I I know these people I've known them longer than others and therefore I love them Love based on what? Hear me now. There is no genuine love Apart from God because God is love and apart from him and apart from faith in him. We have no capacity for love any love that we think we feel is Actually self-gratification it is a sotia.

How do I know this it's what the Bible says It's what the Bible says Think about it Well, I'm an atheist but I have love for my fellow man. I contribute to charities. Why do you contribute to the charities? you love The downtrodden you love the underprivileged No, you love the feeling you get From contributing I Feel like a better person because I give That's Reality.

Well, I set up foundations and I have my name on buildings and and my money will work even after I'm gone I'm I'm altruistic You know why atheists Serve their fellow man, you know why they set up foundations and endowments and try to help their fellow man Because it makes them feel better about themselves Why do Biblical Christians engage in charity If you have done it for the least of these my brethren you have done it unto me we love because he first loved we don't Engage in charity and in service to each other Because it makes us feel good It may make us feel good, but that's not why we do it. We do it because of our faith We do it because it is a reflection of the glory of God. It is a response and A proper one to the love that God has expressed toward us.

We forgive because we have been forgiven right Why would somebody in the atheistic world forgive or try to forgive Makes them feel better about themselves everything an Atheistic person does everything a faithless person does they do for themselves? It is the only reason to do anything. And of course it is ultimately hopeless and fruitless Because there is no love apart from God there just isn't you can call it love You can sing with the Beatles all day long All you need is love, but you're never going to find it and you're never going to have it because love is sourced in God Cut yourself off from God refuse to have a relationship with God. There is no genuine love.

There is only self gratification be not Excessive in self gratification, which is a sotia be filled with God's Spirit That's where love comes from and notice the very first reaction when you are filled with the Spirit is what? looking to one another encouraging one another celebrating genuine value genuine hope genuine glory of God in Psalms and hymns and Spiritual songs we are bound together in love. We have confidence. We have community.

We have family We have fellowship we have love because What is Romans 5 5 say keep your finger here and turn to it? Romans 5 5 it's good to hear the rustling of pages every once in a while Having been justified by faith Romans 5 1 we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and We

rejoice in hope of the glory of God not only that but we glory even in tribulations Knowing that tribulation produces perseverance perseverance character and character hope hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts how By the Holy Spirit who was given to us. There is no genuine love. There is no genuine Perseverance character and hope apart from relationship with God we Appreciate these things we value these things and we share and Encourage one another in these things through Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs Singing and making melody in our hearts Corporately together in the Lord in the Lord Did you catch the last phrase? That's the key It is not something to be lightly Lost singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord thankfulness giving thanks always In everything give thanks.

This is the will of God concerning you in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God What is the season we are rapidly approaching? Thanksgiving what is the origin of that holiday? thanking God for provision thanking God for his grace They're quickly trying to morph it into. I don't know what they call it now. You know fall festival or happy Let's get together and look at the fall leaves I don't know what they what they're trying to do But it is the giving of thanks always in all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ Consistently all through scripture prayer is addressed to the Father in the name of the Son you will find no deviation from that anywhere in scripture Anywhere in the New Testament for the church it is prayer to the Father in the name of the Son in the power of the Spirit you will not find a single example of any other kind of prayer Anywhere in the Scriptures addressed to the church Now it finally says submitting to one another in the fear of God.

This is what we're going to look at next time Because this has been widely abused and misunderstood you have The congregational model for churches is based in part on this scripture. Well. We should all submit to each other Let's we're just going to have a pure democracy.

Everybody's going to get a vote We're not going to promote any one elder above another or where you know everybody needs to submit to everybody Anybody in the church says something ought to be done everybody else ought to submit that is not what this is saying we do not submit to any old body the Pattern in this passage is for Paul to introduce the concept and then explain it right That's what he's been doing all along the wise life is one that is characterized by redeeming the time and Claiming the filling of the Spirit That's how you do wisdom. How do you submit to one another? He gives these specific cases where this pertains wives submit to your own husbands Not to all husbands a woman doesn't submit to any man that comes along You submit to your own husband. That's the area.

That's the Circumscription around this command. That's the place where it functions This whole idea that well, you know, the woman's place is in the home barefoot and pregnant all the women ought to be No each marriage is its own entity and quote-unquote submission is the Structure that God has placed in the home the best illustration I've given you this before but I was given this in seminary and I think it is by far the best and most biblical Perspective on this because people immediately begin to vibrate. Oh, you're saying that women are inferior They should submit that the man is the boss, you know, blah blah blah look Look at Scripture look at worship in Israel.

How many tribes are there in Israel careful now? How many tribes how many total tribes in the nation of Israel that goes into the land of Canaan? careful, how many 13 13 tribes right because Ephraim and Manasseh you double the tribe of Joseph. There's 13 tribes How many tribes are allowed to administer the worship life in Israel perform the sacrifices? one tribe why how many how many tribes are designated to Have the the Kings from what tribe are Kings allowed to come in God's economy in Israel Tribe of Judah. Well, what are you saying about the people from the tribe of Simeon here? Hey, I'm in the tribe of Reuben Reuben's a firstborn.

How dare you say that? I can't be king or I can't be a priest Primo geniture Reuben was the firstborn Run into a big problem there, don't you? Remember what happened to the people that decided they could be priests They decided they'd go light a torch and go before God and start Offering stuff Remember what happened to them? They get their smoking remains got carried off on their cloaks and their little sensors got hammered into plates That were put around the altar to remind anybody else That got that idea that God has said for reasons of his own The tribe of Levi is the only tribe and not only that not even the whole tribe of Levi only the sons of Aaron right Not any old Levite can be a priest you've got to be descended from Aaron. Well, I'm descended from Moses too bad You can't be a priest But I'm descended from Moses too bad But I'm a Levite tough if you can't trace your descendants back through Aaron in the tribe of Levi You cannot be a priest. Well, but that's so unfair tough That's God's design.

It's God's plan. Are you submissive? Are you obedient? Do you? Appreciate are you thankful for The grace of God and the provision of God and the glory of God and the way God has organized things or not It is the same in marriage the fact that wives are Instructed to be submissive to their husbands that there is an authority structure in marriage Just like there is an authority structure for civil government in Israel Just like there's an authority structure for worship life in Israel It is of God and if you don't like it, you take it up with him Just let me get at a safe distance first You let me get several paces away Then you go up there and start telling God how you've got a better plan than he does for how marriage should work You want your kids to run roughshod you want your kids to get into a sotia and create chaos and heartache and Mass confusion in your home. That's your choice, but you are not Comporting with God's design for authority children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right Parents might be dumb kids might be smart too bad.

If you're under the roof of the parents you obey the parents Wives your husband may be an idiot But he is the authority and you've got to find a way to be submissive while still being a help meet Maybe he teamed up your smart self with your dumb husband so that the two of you could Stagger through the narrow gate to life together and he'd never gotten there without you and you can be grateful That you've been given that role, but it is nuts. It is nuts To sweep aside the clear guidance of Scripture for the sake of political correctness for the sake of current fads in social experimentation or social beliefs based on atheistic philosophy Wives submit to your own husbands. It's not murky.

It's not Foggy, it's not unclear It's not subject to interpretation if you're a wife and you have a husband the Bible says submit as to the Lord if You feel back sass about to leave your lips ask yourself if there's a sudden swap in target here And it's the Lord Jesus standing there. What I say what I'm about to say what I do what I'm about to do would I Launch the assault or insult that I'm about to launch if this was the Lord Jesus What does Scripture say you either believe it or you don't you either live by your faith or you don't wives? Submit to your own husbands as

you would submit to the Lord He is the Lord's proxy. He is the Lord's representative good bad ugly dumb Misguided he's the Lord's proxy.

He is accountable to the Lord for his stupidity. He is also accountable if he ignores your sage advice. You can offer it, but you have to offer it carefully as You would to the Lord.

Lord, I don't know if you know that you know, the Sabians are coming over the hill here and we're about to all be overrun. Care as to the Lord the actual situation is what we get obsessed with we get out we think well, but. There's going to be a monetary loss. There's going to be some awful outcome if my husband follows this foolish course. He wants to buy a seven thousand dollar Martin guitar and we only have three thousand dollars in the bank. And if he buys this it's just going to be nuts. Yes, it may but you know, what's going to be evaluated in heaven for you as a wife. Did you submit to your husband as to the Lord or not?

His time in the judgment is going to be you moron. Why did you spend seven grand when you only had three in the bank? That's between him and the Lord. You can advise, you can encourage, you can if you have a healthy relationship your husband is going to avail himself of where two are gathered together. There is the Lord Jesus in the midst and a good healthy marriage centered in Christ isn't going to reach crisis points where there's just diametrically opposite opinion anyway. And it will be a joy to support and encourage and help to implement things even if you aren't perfectly convinced that they're the best course. You commit it to God. Lord I know my job is to support and submit and be a help meet. I am NOT convinced that this is necessarily the best thing in my own mind but I'm committing it to you because I know that at this point the issue is my submission not the overall wisdom of the policy or the action.

We think that it's measured by results in this life. No, it is measured by our level of obedience, our level of commitment. Are you filled with the Spirit? Are you? Reflecting the glory of God are you responding and living as unto the Lord? Wives submit to your own husband's as to the Lord. Why the husband is head of the wife just as Christ is head of the church. How much business to the church have telling Jesus how the church age ought to run? Or how churches are run or what the priorities ought to be? You go give that a try. You climb the stairway to heaven and stand in front of Jesus and tell him you've got a better idea for the church. You just go do that. And as ready as you are to do that.

That's how ready you ought to be to Throw obstacles in the authority structure that God has designed Look at the Levites Hoffney and Phineas Were they grossly malfunctioning in their work? Do you thought think there were Israelites who really got sick of seeing the three-pronged flesh hook going into their sacrificial pot and and robbing them Who took care of that problem did Israelites rise up and revolt and say we're no longer going to accept the authority of Hoffney and Phineas Who dealt with that problem? What happened to Hoffney and Phineas? God dealt with them because they are accountable to God Israelites had to tough it out under bad spiritual leadership in the days of Eli's two sons Well, that's how it is It the trial of your faith produces patience let patience have its perfect work in you so that you may be perfect and complete It's not your job to make Hoffney and Phineas perfect and complete, right? We have to adjust our thinking to the biblical perspective and to do that. We must be filled with the Spirit Looking to God's priorities God's objectives God's evaluations rather than our own The quickest way to mess up your judgment is to get drunk with anything To make self-gratification the priority it is the quickest way to destruction. This is the message of Ephesians 5:18 Look at what

follows immediately upon being filled with the Spirit We are Speaking to one another productively helpfully in an encouraging and up-building way psalms hymns Spiritual songs notice these things some parts of it are melodic some of them are Lyrical it's its content and its form you can express wonderful peace and Appreciation for God musically it can be a tune But it has God as its object As what is being appreciated singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord giving thanks always You will not find any of us being far wrong when we are thankful This is the season for Thanksgiving and if you think about it thankful people are very seldom arrogant Thankful people are very seldom self-centered thankful people are appreciative and are positive and look for ways to Not only be blessed, but be a blessing that's one of the dashboard dials on Spiritual life how thankful am I? How appreciative am I to God and to fellow believers in everything give.

Thanks. This is the will of God Be wise Understanding what the will of the Lord is what is the will of the Lord be thankful? This is the will of the Lord be filled with the spirit. This is the will of the Lord Don't forsake the assembling of yourselves together as some have done Speak to one another spend time with one another enjoy the community of Faith because in that faith is the wellspring of genuine love Love comes from God and there is no other source.

All other love is self-love. All other gratification is self-gratification And apart from faith It is impossible to please God Let's close here in a word of prayer Father, thank you for the truth of your word. Thank you for the clear light that it shines on our Situations and our circumstances on our hearts and on our souls We pray that as we reflect on the things that have been communicated to us through this portion of your word that God the Holy Spirit in his active ministry in our souls will Not only give us understanding but also Encouragement and motivation to make changes if we need to make them to strengthen things that may be getting weak to Devote ourselves more fully and thoroughly in the time that remains to us in this life to your plan and purpose and to the glory Of the Lord Jesus.

We pray these things in his name. Amen