

WHAT TO DO: *"Look carefully then how you walk..." (Eph. 5:15)*

WHY TO DO IT:

- God has made believers light in the Lord.
- Fatherhood is a gift and a great responsibility.
- Therefore Christian fathers must carefully evaluate how they live.

3 QUESTIONS EVERY FATHER SHOULD ASK:



WHAT AM I DOING? | EXAMINE YOUR HANDS

"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time..." (Eph. 5:15-16)

WISDOM IS...

- Not intelligence
- Not merely knowing Bible facts
- Skillfully applying God's truth to everyday life

PAUL'S TEST OF WISDOM

How are you using the opportunities God gives you:

- At home?
- With your wife?
- With your children?
- In everyday conversations?
- In the use of your time?

WHY?

"...because the days are evil."

- We only have a limited number of opportunities.
- Our children have eternal souls.
- Parenting happens in the middle of a spiritual battle.

EVALUATION QUESTIONS

- What am I actually doing with my children?
- Am I only providing materially?
- How am I providing spiritual input?
- Am I taking advantage of everyday opportunities?

2

HOW AM I THINKING? | EXAMINE YOUR HEAD

*"Do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is."
(Ephesians 5:17)*

FOOLISHNESS COMES NATURALLY

WISDOM REQUIRES INTENTIONALLY CONNECTING:

- What you hear
- What Scripture says
- How you live

THE WRONG QUESTION

What pleases me?

THE RIGHT QUESTION

What pleases the Lord?

UNDERSTANDING GOD'S WILL

God has revealed His will in:

- The gospel of Christ
- The Word of God

WISDOM MEANS LEARNING TO THINK ABOUT LIFE THE WAY GOD DOES.

Practical Goal:

Allow the gospel and God's Word to shape *thoughts, words, actions, parenting.*

Beware the Gospel Gap:

Knowing the gospel for salvation and eternity while failing to apply it to everyday life.

3

WHAT IS CONTROLLING ME? | EXAMINE YOUR HEART

*"Do not get drunk with wine... but be filled with the Spirit."
(Ephesians 5:18)*

TWO WAYS TO LIVE

Foolish

- Controlled by earthly pleasure
- Escapes reality
- Seeks satisfaction in created things

Wise

- Controlled by the Spirit
- Faces reality through the gospel
- Finds satisfaction in Christ

WHAT DOES DRUNKENNESS REPRESENT?

A lifestyle that:

- Seeks earthly pleasure
- Escapes hardship
- Numbs reality
- Ultimately becomes destructive

EVALUATION QUESTION

When life becomes difficult, where do I turn?

- Alcohol?
- Entertainment?
- Work?
- Comfort?
- Possessions?
- Something else?

Or do I seek to be filled with the Spirit?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

Filled = Controlled by the Spirit

"The Spirit strengthens the inner person so that Christ increasingly shapes the believer's life." *Ephesians 3:14-19*

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." *Colossians 3:16*

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT INVOLVES:

- Letting Christ's Word dwell richly in us
- Encouraging one another with God's Word
- Living under Christ's influence

HOW CAN I TELL WHAT IS CONTROLLING ME?

Paul says the Spirit-filled life produces visible fruit.

1. Our Speech Changes

- Speaking God's truth
- Encouraging one another
- Praise becomes natural

2. We Genuinely Delight in Christ

- Joy from the heart
- Our children see sincere enjoyment of Jesus

3. We Become Thankful

- “Always”
- “For everything”
- Gratitude replaces complaining.

4. We Submit to One Another

- Spirit-filled living shapes the home.
- This prepares for the household instructions that follow in Ephesians 5-6.

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Before we talk about what to do as a dad, we need to examine who we are as an individual.

- What am I doing?
 - Am I making the best use of my opportunities?
- How am I thinking?
 - Am I seeking what pleases the Lord?
- What is controlling my heart?
 - Earthly pleasure?
 - Or the Holy Spirit?