

Let Us Walk Circumspectly
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

Introduction:

1. In Ephesians 5-6 God's people are given some very important instructions.
2. In our lesson we are especially interested in the admonition to "*walk circumspectly*" (Ephesians 5:15-17).
 - a. "*Walk*" refers to our conduct, the manner in which we live.
 - b. Walking "*circumspectly*" involves giving careful attention to our conduct, living correctly and with caution.
3. To "*walk circumspectly*," we must:
 - a. live wisely, not foolishly (vs.15b)
 - b. "redeem the time" [to make the best use of time] (vs.16)
 - c. "understand the Lord's will" (vs.17).
4. From Ephesians 5-6 we are considering 3 areas in which we are to "*walk circumspectly*."

Discussion:

- I. FIRST, LET US "*WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY*" IN FOLLOWING GOD (Ephesians 5:1-14)
 - A. In following God we must imitate the example of Christ (vs.1-2).
 - B. In following God we must avoid sinful activities (vs.3-5).
 - C. In following God we must avoid evil influence (vs.6-14; 1 Corinthians 15:33).
- II. SECOND, LET US "*WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY*" IN OUR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT (Ephesians 5:18-21)
 - A. According to these verses, spiritual development involves:
 1. being "*filled with the Spirit*" (vs.18)
 2. offering praise (vs.19)
 3. giving thanks (vs.20)
 4. concern for others (vs.21).
 - B. Spiritual development is also addressed in 1 Peter 2:1-3.
- III. THIRD, LET US "*WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY*" AS WE FULFILL OUR FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES (Ephesians 5:22-6:4)
 - A. The responsibilities of wives are discussed in Ephesians 5:22-24.
 - B. The responsibilities of husbands are discussed in Ephesians 5:25-33.
 - C. The responsibilities of children are discussed in Ephesians 6:1-3.
 - D. The responsibilities of fathers are addressed in Ephesians 6:4.

Conclusion:

1. We learn from Ephesians 5:15 that the Lord requires His people to "*walk circumspectly*" [to live and conduct ourselves as the Lord teaches in His Word].
2. From Ephesians 5-6 we have seen how we are to "*walk circumspectly*" as we:
 - a. follow God
 - b. develop spiritually
 - c. fulfill our family responsibilities.
3. As we endeavor to "*walk circumspectly*" in these areas, let us:
 - a. pursue wisdom and avoid foolishness (5:15b)
 - b. redeem the time because the days are certainly evil (5:16)
 - c. understand the will of the Lord (vs.17).