

How to Walk Circumspectly
(Ephesians 5:15-17)

Introduction:

1. These verses reveal some very important instructions for Christians.
 - a. (vs.15a) We are to "walk circumspectly" [to live and conduct ourselves in a way that pleases the Lord].
 - b. (vs.15b) Rather than live foolishly, we are to live wisely.
 - c. (vs.16) We are to redeem the time [make the best use of our time].
 - d. (vs.17) We are to understand the Lord's will.
2. This evening we are especially interested in the admonition to "walk circumspectly."
3. In our lesson we are studying verses from Ephesians 5-6 that teach us "how to walk circumspectly."

Discussion:

- I. (Ephesians 5:1-14) WE ARE TO "WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY" AS WE FOLLOW GOD
 - 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. (Ephesians 5:18-21) WE ARE TO "WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY" AS WE DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY
 - 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. (Ephesians 5:22-6:4) WE ARE TO "WALK CIRCUMSPECTLY" AS WE FULFILL OUR FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
 - 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 in a way that pleases the Lord].
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 (5:17).