

# The Life Challenge

*"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10*

**Title:** How You Walk  
**Text:** Ephesians 5:15-21  
**Speaker:** Steve Berg  
**Date:** June 9, 2019



## WARM-UP

Did you have a hero, someone you tried to imitate while you were growing up? What challenges did you face?

## DISCUSSION

In Ephesians 5:1, Paul exhorted his readers to walk by "imitating God." Just as you were overwhelmed in trying to be like your childhood heroes, Christians are overwhelmed to think of trying to emulate a sinless, perfect God. We cannot do what Jesus did, be an imitator of God, or walk wisely, apart from God's intervention. By being filled with the Spirit, we can, in fact, walk as Jesus walked.

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-18:
  - What contrasts do you see in these verses?
  - Foolishness is contrasted with understanding the will of the Lord. Why?
  - The last contrast in these verses is the command "do not get drunk with wine but be filled with the Spirit." Why do you think Paul uses the drunkenness contrast here with being filled by the Spirit?
2. This is not the first reference to the Spirit in Ephesians:
  - Read Ephesians 1:13. according to this passage, when do Christians receive the Spirit?
  - Read Ephesians 2:18-22. What role does the Spirit play in the Christian life?
  - Read Ephesians 4:30. How does this passage relate to the command in 5:18?
3. Be filled with the Spirit:
  - "Be filled with the Spirit" is a present tense verb. Why would Paul use a present tense verb to describe being filled with the Spirit?
  - "Be filled with the Spirit" is a command. Why is this significant?
  - "Be filled with the Spirit" is in the passive voice. Why would Paul teach that believers are passive recipients of the filling of the Spirit?
  - Think about this: we are commanded to do something we cannot do. What does this tell you about the Christian life?
4. Read Ephesians 5:19-21:
  - These verses display beneficial results of being filled with the Spirit. What are they?
  - How does thankfulness qualify as an expression of being Spirit-filled?
5. What does Paul want us to understand about walking as an imitator of God?