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Men's Leadership Ministries

LANDMINES

WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS



Session One – “Walking Wisely in Evil Days”

“I thought I was paying attention. I tripped that wire.”

Our Religious Liberty is disappearing. How men can lead a family in a hostile culture? Christ-Followers will now get heat. We *are in a Hostile Culture*. Everything has changed.

Ephesians 5:15-16

“We are living in days of exceptional evil.” – Martin Lloyd Jones, Pastor Westminster Chapel, 1959

You see every day how evil is increasing.

Ephesians 5:17-18

When a man gets serious about Christ, the enemy gets serious about him.

Don't be Ignorant - 1 Peter 5:8 – He wants to devour you

The Devil's Strategies

1. Alienate and Separate Husbands and Wives
2. Alienate and Separate relationship with Kids

Four Counter Strategies – in Ephesians 5:15-18

1. *Make Wisdom a Priority – Ephesians 5:15*
 - a. Psalm 1:1-3 – Taught how to live in the world
 - i. John 17:15 – Keep them in the world, but from the evil one
 - ii. Jesus said there are two kinds of people, two paths – broad road vs. narrow gate
 - b. Psalm 119 – There is great favor in following God's way
 - c. 1 Corinthians 1:20-25,30
 - d. 1 Corinthians 3:18-20
 - i. How do we get the wisdom of Christ? Through his word.
 - e. Romans 12:1-2
 - f. Ephesians 5:15 – we are not “unwise” = morally stupid



2. *Realize Your Time is Precious – Ephesians 5:16*
 - a. Ephesians 5:15 – Walk “circumspectly” = looking around. Walk with precision and exactness. Don’t squander time.
 - b. Ephesians 2:1 – You used to walk dead
 - c. Ephesians 4:1;17 – Now walk worthy
 - d. Ephesians 5:1 – Walk in Love
 - i. Looking out for others first
 - e. Ephesians 5:8 – Walk as children of the light
 - i. Watch your leisure time
The Key word of fathering is “with”.
 - ii. You can’t spend all of your time at work if you have kids
 - iii. Redeem the time in relationships
 - iv. You can’t say “Yes” to everything.
 - v. Learn to say “No”.
“It’ll do more good than learning Latin.” – C.S. Lewis

3. *Seek to Understand God’s Will – Ephesians 5:17*
 - a. General vs. Specific Will of God
General will for Christians is the Bible.
It is all over scripture – “This is the way, walk in it”, “This is the will of God...”
ex. Thessalonians 4:3
 - b. James 1:22 – Don’t just be hearers of the word
 - c. Wisdom is taking the principles of God’s Word and applying it to your situation.
 - i. 1 Peter 2:21 – You will suffer
 - d. James 1:5 – Ask God for Wisdom – His will – Specific Wisdom
“When facts are clear, the decisions jump out at you.” – Peter Drucker
 - i. Wisdom is thinking about the long-term consequences of your decision
 - ii. You ask God, he’ll show you, he’ll navigate you



4. *Don't Be a Drunk – Be Controlled by the Spirit – Ephesians 5:18*
 - a. The Bible does not forbid the usage of alcohol, but it does forbid the *abusage* of alcohol.
 - b. You cannot think wisely while drunk.
There are all kinds of drunkenness, not just alcohol.
 - c. The core problem of drunkenness is lack of self-control.
 - d. Galatians 5:22-23 – Fruit of the Spirit
 - i. Be controlled by the Holy Spirit of God
 - ii. The test of “Being Filled with the Spirit” is what your home is like, and how you relate to other people.
 - iii. I want Christ to control me – I am under control – Wisdom
 - iv. Ephesians 4:29 – Controlled speech
 - v. Colossians 3:16 – Word of Christ richly dwell in you...
Speech, Attitude, Submission to authority
 - vi. Being controlled by the Word of Christ and being controlled by the Spirit are the same thing. Two sides to the same coin.

There's an old hymn that says, Rise up O men of God. We need to *Wise* up O men of God.