

**In and Out**  
**#5: In the Party, But Not of It**  
**May 26-28, 2007**

<sup>15</sup>Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 5:15-20 TNIV*

Introduction: Perhaps the most pressing issue facing believers who live in our culture is how to live “in the world, but not of it.” This is especially true for a church like Columbia in a place like Washington. One the most controversial facets of this struggle involves the Christian’s response to the “social scene.” Is it OK for believers to be “the life of the party?”

- I. Being Wise (vv.15-17)
  - A. Christians are called to live “careful,” intentional lives.
  - B. Christians are called to act wisely.
  - C. Christians are called to make the most of every opportunity in the midst of evil.
  - D. Christians are called to eschew foolishness.
  - E. Christians are called to understand the Lord’s will.
- II. Being Sober (v.18a)
  - A. Though a legitimate, and perhaps wise approach to alcohol, the Bible does not prohibit consumption.
    1. Ecclesiastes 7:9 – “drink wine with a merry heart.”
    2. Psalm 104:14-15 – God gives “wine to gladden the human heart.”
    3. Amos 9:14 – “they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine.”
    4. Isaiah 55:1 – “Come, buy wine and milk . . .”
    5. Matthew 26:29 – Jesus drank wine on occasion.
    6. John 2:1-11 – Jesus changed water to wine.
    7. 1 Timothy 5:23 – Paul counseled Timothy to “take a little wine” for his ailments.

- B. However, the Bible more frequently commands Christians to avoid drunkenness.
    1. Ephesians 5:18.
    2. Proverbs 23:1, 29-35.
    3. Isaiah 5:11-12, 22
    4. Luke 12:45-46
    5. Romans 13:13
    6. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
    7. 1 Timothy 3:2-3, 3:8
  - C. Since the counsel of Scripture is more frequently negative toward intoxication than positive toward consumption, a good watchword is 1 Corinthians 6:12: “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are beneficial; I will not be mastered by anything.”
  - D. We must also heed the counsel of God’s Word that we are not to present a “stumbling block” to our brothers and sisters in Christ. (1 Corinthians 8:9ff., Romans 14:21)
  - E. The glory test: “Whatever you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)
- III. Being Filled (vv.18b-20)
    - A. The Spirit-filled life is presented as the contrast to drunkenness.
    - B. The worship test: “Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.”
      1. Leviticus 10:9
      2. 1 Corinthians 11:20-22
      3. Romans 12:1 – “I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship.”
    - C. Christians are called to lives of thanksgiving to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
    - D. Jesus came that we might be “full-filled.”

Conclusion: Christians are called to be “the life of the party,” putting away the ways of sin and death and testifying to the abundant and eternal life that is found only in Christ. If we are not able to be “in the party, but not of it,” then we must choose to pass on the party.