

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. Most of the people in this room pretend to be nicer than they really are.
2. I can walk into the vast majority of Christian churches around the world and instantly feel loved.
3. Greed causes more sinful acts than any other emotion.
4. There are some things that Jesus did that are impossible for us to do.
5. I comprehend intellectually what God wants me to do.

Part 2: WALKING

DIG DEEPER

Living in the Light

› READ Ephesians 5:1-14 (NLT)

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.

2 Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

3 Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. 4 Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. 5 You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

6 Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. 7 Don't participate in the things these people do. 8 For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! 9 For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

10 Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. 11 Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. 12 It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. 13 But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, 14 for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,

"Awake, O sleeper,

**rise up from the dead,
and Christ will give you light."**

Imitate God...because you are his dear children...

» (vs. 1) (μιμηται του θεου [mimētai tou theou]). If we are to be like God, we must imitate him. The specific command to imitate God is unique in the Bible and relatively rare in Judaism because it is related to the sin of the first humans which was to want to be "like God" (Gen. 3:5).

« So what does God want us to imitate?

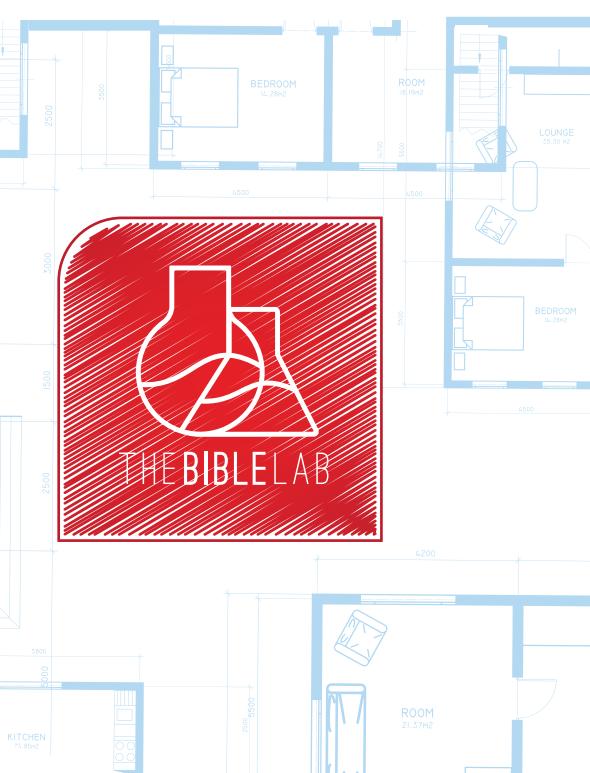
Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ...

» (vs. 2) How did Christ demonstrate a life filled with love? What are the things that we can do, and are there ways that we cannot follow his example?

This light within you produces...

» (vs. 9) The fruit of the light is three things: goodness, righteousness, and truth.

« How are we supposed to reflect this, God's character, in our lives?



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

Determine what pleases the Lord...

- » (vs. 10) The words find out/determine translate (δοκιμαζοντες [dokimazontes]), which is literally, “putting to the test,” “approving,” or “discerning” (cf. Rom. 12:2).
- « How do we typically determine what pleases the Lord, and how might we do it better?

Living by the Spirit's Power

> READ Ephesians 5:15-20 (NLT)

15 So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Understand what the Lord wants you to do...

» (vs. 15-17) Rather than being foolish (aphrones, “senseless”) or “unwise” (asophoi, v. 15), Christians are to understand (syniete, “comprehend intellectually”) what the Lord’s will is. Only after one understands what pleases God (v. 1) can he carry it out in his life and make the most of every opportunity.

« So...What does the Lord want you to do?

Be filled with the Holy Spirit...

» (vs. 18) For the drunken man, rather than controlling himself, the wine controls him. Conversely, the positive command is, “Be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Thus a believer, rather than controlling himself, is controlled by the Holy Spirit.

« Why do you think the church has not historically emphasized this Holy Spirit control?

The results of the infilling?

» (vs. 19,21) Paul then gave four results of being filled with the Spirit. **First** is communication with one another with psalms (psalmoi, OT psalms sung with stringed instruments such as harps), hymns (hymnois, praises composed by Christians), and spiritual songs (a general term). **Second** is communication with the Lord by singing and making melody (psallontes, singing with a stringed instrument) in the heart. **Third** is thanking God the Father continually for all things. **Fourth**, Spirit-controlled believers are to submit to one another, willingly serving others and being under them rather than dominating them and exalting themselves.

« If the Holy Spirit’s very presence produces singing, thanksgiving, and selfless submission to others, what does this reveal about the character of God?



MY PRAYER...

1. In what ways do I need to imitate God more in my daily life?
2. What priority am I placing on the infilling of the Holy Spirit every moment of my day?
3. What new aspect of God’s character does He want me to know?

