

THE MARKS OF A SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH

(Part 2: Ephesians 5:18-21)

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we willingly submit to Spirit of God who controls and directs God's people through God's Word (Ephesians 5:18). It is when the Word of God dwells in us richly that the Spirit of God fills His church completely (Colossians 3:16). **As the church of our Lord Jesus, our life and ministry must be marked by Christ-exalting virtues and by the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.** Ephesians 5:18-21 teaches four indispensable marks of the Spirit-filled church.

1. ***The Spirit-filled church is marked by continuous yielding to the Spirit's control.***

2. ***The Spirit-filled church is marked by _____.***

The Spirit-filled life leads to a life of genuine and joyful worship (Ephesians 5:18-19). God not only deserves our praise. He demands our praise and He delights in our praise. In verse 19, the Apostle Paul explains that our worship life as a church has a horizontal and a vertical dimension. Horizontally, Spirit-filled worship edifies the people of God. Vertically, Spirit-filled worship glorifies our God.

a. ***When we worship as a church, we _____
our fellow believers.***

Being filled with the Spirit influences our relationship with our fellow believers in the body of Christ. In the words of Paul, we "*address or speak to one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs*" (Ephesians 5:19). Whenever we gather together as a church for corporate worship, the Spirit of God uses us as His instruments of blessing, edification, instruction and encouragement to our fellow believers (Colossians 3:16). The church is richly endowed with diverse musical genres to express our worship to God and to serve the body of Christ: psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (Psalm 23, 46, 91, 134; Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25).

b. ***When we worship as a church, we _____.***

God alone is the audience of our worship and God's glory alone is the aim of our worship (Ephesians 5:19). Our Lord delights in the vocal worship and musical praise of His redeemed people (Psalm 33:1-3; 95:1; 149:1). The songs of the unbelieving world will never be sung in eternity (Revelation 18:22; Ezekiel 26:13). Only the songs of the redeemed, Spirit-filled people of God who sing and make melody to the Lord will be sung forever in God's eternal kingdom (Revelation 5:9-10).

Our corporate worship today as a church is a wondrous foretaste of our unending praise and adoration of God in heaven. Our congregational singing and musical worship must then be offered unto the Lord, for the glory of the Lord and in the presence of the Lord. Hence, worship that comes from a heart that is right before the Lord is a sweet and pleasing music to the ears of God (Amos 5:21-24; Matthew 15:8-9; Psalm 73:21-26; 51:1-2,10,17).
