

Planning

Improvisation

How should we approach the Christian life?

How should we live as a church?

1

**Wise Faith**  
**Ephesians 5:15-21**

[ref.ly/Ep5;niv](https://ref.ly/Ep5;niv)



2

God made known to us **the mystery of his will** according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—**to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

Ephesians 1:9-10

**God's purpose for creation: Unity**

3

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power **through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that **Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, **together with all the Lord's holy people**, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—**that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.**

Ephesians 3:16-19

**God's people are to be filled with God**

4

## Therefore walk (live)...

In <b>unity</b> together	4:1-16
In <b>holiness</b> together	4:17-32
In <b>love</b> together	5:1-2
In <b>light</b> together	5:3-14
In <b>wisdom</b> together	5:15-6:9

This is what it looks like  
for God's people  
to join God's work  
to bring unity to all things under Christ

5

## Ephesians 5:15-21

<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..**

6

19 **speaking**  
**to one another**  
 with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit.  
**Sing and make music** from your heart  
**to the Lord,**  
 20 **always giving thanks**  
**to God the Father**  
 for everything,  
*in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*  
 21 **Submit**  
**to one another**  
*out of reverence for Christ...*

7

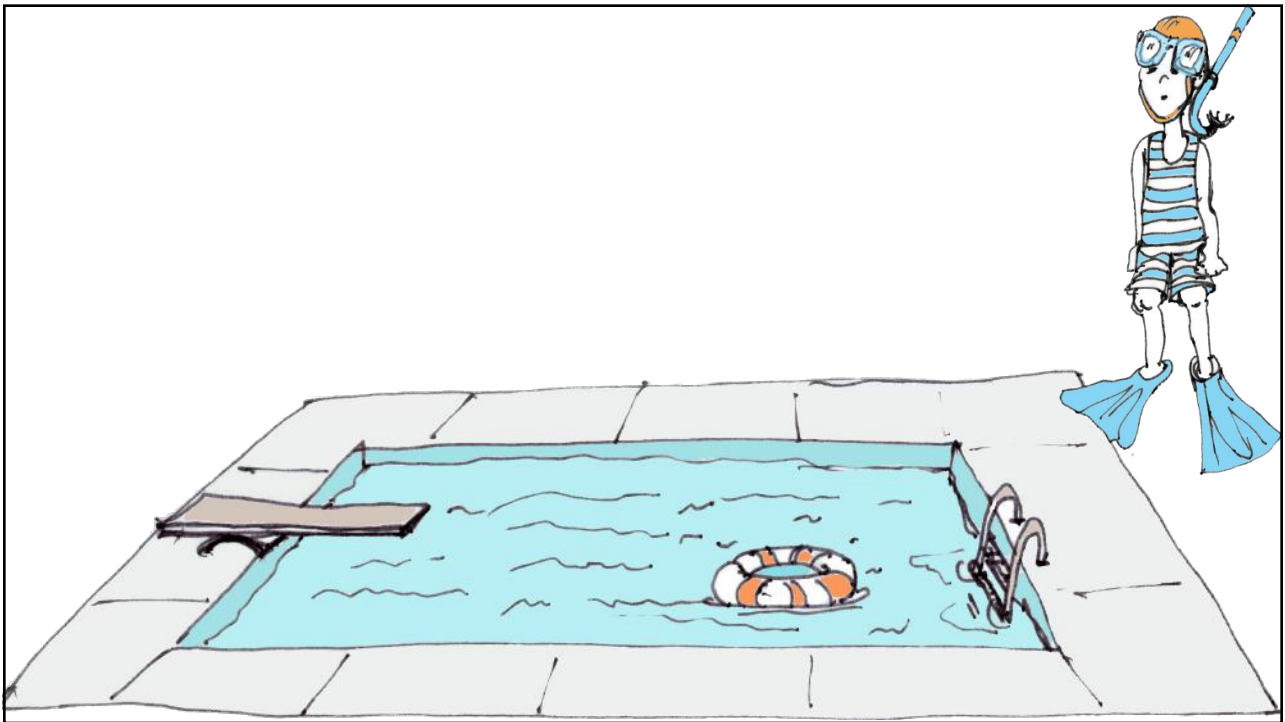
Be very careful, then,  
 how you live - not as  
 unwise but as wise,  
 making the most of  
 every opportunity, because  
 the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16

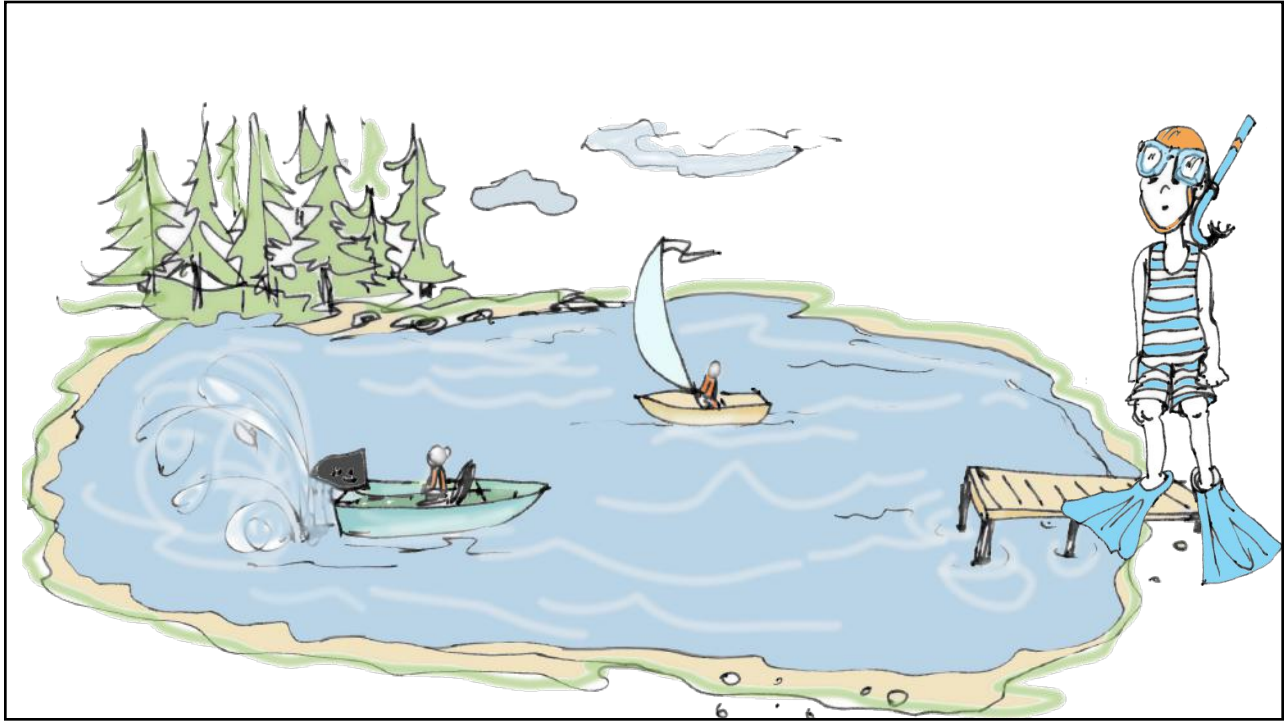
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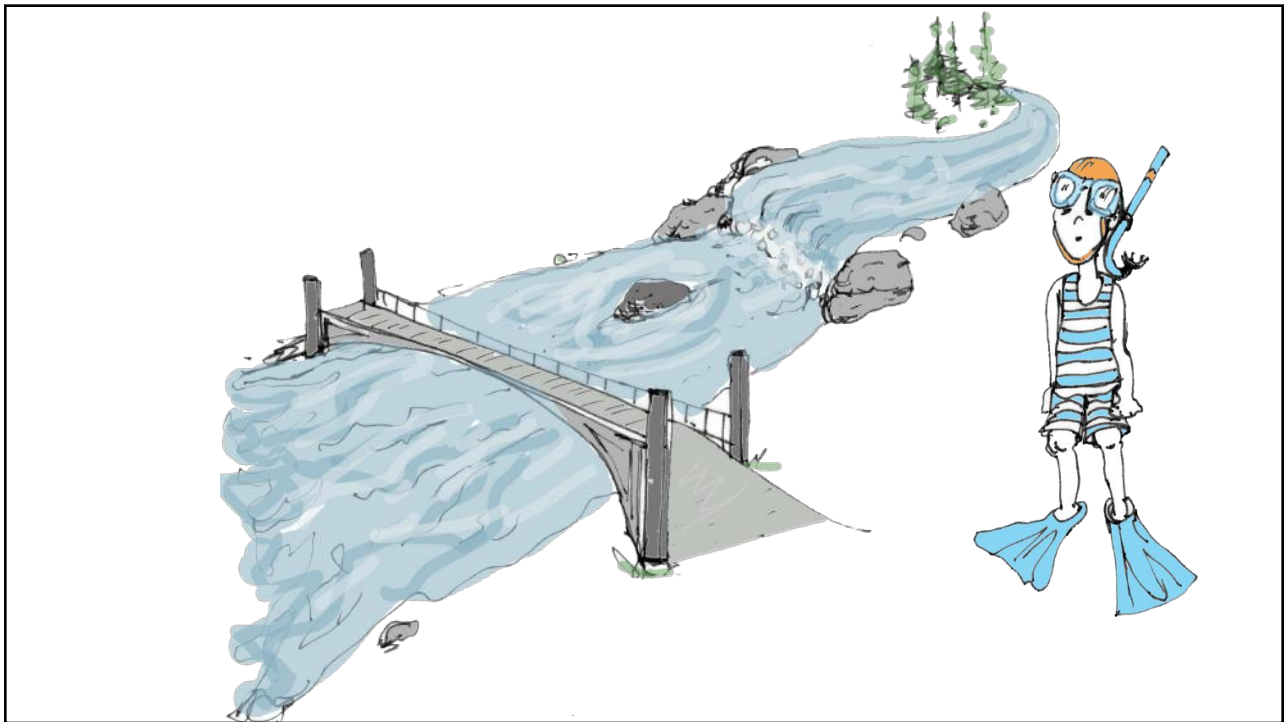
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10



11



12



13

*Be very careful, then,  
how you live—not as  
unwise but as wise,  
making the most of  
every opportunity, because  
the days are evil.*

Ephesians 5:15-16

14

## The Big Idea

God's plan for cosmic unity in Christ  
demands

**skillful** and Spirit-filled living

What is the current?  
What are the risks?  
What are the needs?  
What are the opportunities?

15

## The Big Idea

God's plan for cosmic unity in Christ  
demands

skillful and **Spirit-filled** living

The fullness of God in and among us  
The fruit of the Spirit  
The power of God  
The Spirit's leading and wisdom

16



## **The Big Idea**

God's plan for cosmic unity in Christ  
demands  
skillful and Spirit-filled living

**Then intentionally and diligently pursue  
what God reveals**

17

**Live wisely by the Spirit for God together**

18

## Live wisely by the Spirit for God together

Spirit-led Strategic Planning

<https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/planning/>

Unchanging foundation

...for such a time as this

Using our limited resources well for God's purposes

19

## Live wisely by the Spirit for God together

<https://www.crosswaymchurch.org/planning/>

### Our work together:

- Pray: wisdom, faith, courage, love,  
filled with the Spirit and the fullness of God
- Congregational input: survey  
<http://tiny.cc/cmcsurvey1> Password in email
- Join in implementation and adjustments  
to pursue God's purposes for us

20

Be very careful, then,  
 how you live - not as  
 unwise but as wise,  
 making the most of  
 every opportunity, because  
 the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16

21

"Not that I have already obtained all this [being like Christ and His resurrection], or have already arrived at my goal, but **I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.**

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and **straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.**"

Philippians 3:12-14

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