

Church and Culture
When Substances Take Over
Ephesians 5:15-21

We love to see people accomplish seemingly impossible things and overcome seemingly impossible odds. We admire the skill and endurance of the cyclist who rides across the country or the hiker who hikes the Appalachian trail or the climber who scales the sides of Mt. Everest. Even while we admire their efforts, we should realize that the people who accomplish these great achievements never do so alone.

Only the Holy Spirit should dictate
our _____ and _____.

Our union with the resurrected Christ means:

1. we are dead to the _____ of sin.
2. we are _____ to God.
3. we have a _____.

Has something or someone besides Jesus the Christ taken title to your heart's trust, preoccupation, loyalty, service, fear, and delight? It is a question bearing on the immediate motivation of one's behavior, thoughts, and feelings. In the Bible's conceptualization, the motivation question is the lordship question: who or what "rules" my behavior, the Lord or an idol? Our union with Christ means that we are to be controlled by Him alone. This is great news if we truly want to be freed to live a life pleasing to God.