

A Simple New Year's Resolution
Ephesians 5:15-17

Russell Cook
West End Church of Christ
Knoxville, TN

1. So here we are, at the first Sunday of 2006. I wonder how well we will do this year? Will we be as busy? Will we make any better use of our time? In 359 days, when this year is over, will we be looking back with joy, or regret? Will we be looking at the future with anticipation, or dread?

2. There is a passage of Scripture that I believe can be of help to us as we look forward to the rest of 2006 - if we'll listen to it. The passage is **Eph 5:15-17**, and here is what it says, "**Be very careful, then, how you live - not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**"

3. So this year I have a suggestion for a New Year's resolution that we all ought to remember.

- I. Develop A Positive Outlook Toward Life. Eph. 5:15-17
 - A. First, be careful how we live because our time on earth is limited.
 1. **Psalm 39:4; Psalm 90:10.**
 - B. Secondly, Paul tells us that we must make "**the most of every opportunity.**" and he gives a reason, "**because the days are evil.**"
 - C. Then, Paul tells us, "**...do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**"

- II. Develop A Positive Attitude Toward The Church. Eph. 4:15-16
 - A. Secondly, I think we need to have a positive attitude toward the church.
 1. **Eph 4:15-16**
 - B. Now we need to understand that when we risk something for God we could lose.

- III. Display A Positive Attitude Toward Others. Eph. 4:29-32
 - A. Thirdly, we need to display a positive attitude toward others.
 1. **Eph 4:29-32 29**
 - B. We need each other.
 1. People need positive people - a constant positive influence in life.

Maybe more than any other resolution, we need to resolve to make a change for the better. "I'm going to be positive in the way that I look at my life. I'm going to be positive in the way I look at the church. And I'm going to be positive in the way I treat others."