

Wednesday Word June 24, 2026

Philippians 2:15 *“Become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and perverse generation.”*

When I was growing up in the late 80’s and early 90’s, the world was a much more innocent place. There were a few places we would go as pre-teenagers to experience the rush and excitement of freedom and independence, but still relied on my mom to give us a ride. We would go to the roller rink, the video game arcade, the ice cream shop and the movie theater all within 2 miles of my house. So many fun memories of being out on my own (with my little brother and our friend Mark Paulson) and making my own decisions (if it fit within the \$2 budget my mom gave me). I was truly free and truly living.

The world has changed so much since then. Video arcades are a thing of the past, roller skating has fallen into antique status, and movie theaters have been replaced by home streaming services. We have cameras on every corner, we are being tracked by our phones and real disconnect and freedom are almost non-existent. So how do we truly break free from the conformity of the world’s mold for us?

I have found that learning to walk daily in the Holy Spirit is both exciting, free, and ambiguous at times. I understand that my full citizenship is in another kingdom that, though parallel to this world, is very separate. The world is looking for innocence again, longing for freedom from the constraints of sin all around us. But if I cannot figure out a way to live free from those constraints and burdens, how can I lead others to it? The older I get, the more I realize how many people are watching my life. Do I live with the same burdens that the world casts on everyone? I mean, I live in this world; pay taxes; pay mortgage; drive overcrowded streets; we all face the same challenges and frustrations each day. But it’s how we protect our souls and refuse to let those things rule our spirits that set us apart. It’s that we choose joy over worry and anxiety. It’s a beautiful thing to live in the innocence of Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit that keep us grounded in him and full of joy.

Let’s practice this week NOT allowing the difficulty of everyday, mundane life to weigh on our spirits and model true freedom and innocence. The world is watching.

I love you and God loves you!

Pastor Eric Lundberg