

How To Walk

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Col. 1:10

The scriptures speak of the walk of Christians.

- Col. 1:10, *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*
- 1 Thess. 2:12, *“That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”*
- Eph. 4:1, *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,”*

Walking is vital as far as physical beings are concerned. Doctors many times prescribe walking to patients for their health.

What a tragic thing it would be to not be able to walk. Yet, there are many in this world who for one reason or another are not able to walk, or must walk with great difficulty. They often think of what a joy it would be to be able to walk.

The Bible speaks of walking in a worthy manner three times.

This means we have to be concerned as to how we walk – walk in a worthy manner. Our daily walk is to be worthy of Jesus, worthy of God, and worthy of our vocation of servitude to Christ.

Let’s study this idea of walking worthily a little more closely.

We are to walk worthy of the Lord

Col. 1:10, *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

We cannot separate our walk from the will of God.

What does it mean to walk worthy?

We must be a worthy representative of Christ. Paul said in Gal. 2:20, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”*

Christ gave His life for us and we in turn give our life to him. Since Christ lives in us, we shouldn’t do anything to dishonor His dwelling place – so we walk in a manner worthy of His presence.

We represent Him to the world. It means living in such a manner that Christ is honored and glorified by us.

Col. 3:17, *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”*

This means, to respect His authority in everything; in our personal morality and conduct; in the province of things done in the assembly; and in the whole area of our thoughts and actions.

How can we walk worthy of the Lord?

Paul gives the answer in three short phrases in Col. 1:10, *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God,”*

“...unto all pleasing...” This statement does not appear anywhere else in the New Testament.

It does not mean (as some people sometimes think) to please all, but rather it means pleasing to the Lord in all things.

We are to so walk as to please the Lord. We walk pleasing to the Lord because we love Him. 1 Thess. 4:1, *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.”*

His blessings are to those who walk with Him and are pleasing to Him.

“...being fruitful in every good work...” Being fruitful is evidence of walking worthy of the Lord.

Sometimes we have our own definitions of what “every good work” is.

We think it is Bible study, clean living, attending church services, etc. But it is more than that; it is even more than the good works listed in Gal. 5:22-23, which we should do. Gal. 5:22-23, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

It is our daily service to Him that each and everything we do or enter into is a good work, or that we produce good in everything that we do.

“...increasing in the knowledge of God...” This is not an intellectual, or worldly knowledge, but a spiritual knowledge that changes and molds our lives. John 8:32, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

The more we learn in studying the Bible, the more we can accomplish for God that is pleasing to Him. The more we know of

God's love, mercy, longsuffering, etc., the better we understand Him and the easier it is to walk worthy of Him.

We are to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called

Eph. 4:1, *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,"*

Our daily walk is to correspond with our calling. We are called of Christ, therefore we should walk in Him.

How did Jesus walk?

For He said to learn of Him. Matt. 11:29, *"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*

He walked with meekness and humility and He teaches us how to walk. Our walk is also to be with lowliness and meekness, just as was Christ's.

We should have a sense of our own smallness in our relationship with God. He is so much greater than us.

Those talking with Job thought they knew God so well and accused Job of sinning against God when he had not. God replied in Job 38:1-21... (goes on, but we'll read just through the 21st verse):

"Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said, Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me. Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddlingband for it, And brake up for it my decreed place, and set bars and doors, And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed? Hast thou commanded the morning since thy days; and caused the dayspring to know his place; That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, that the wicked might be shaken out of it? It is turned as clay to the seal; and they stand as a garment. And from the wicked their light is withholden, and the high arm shall be broken. Hast thou entered into the springs

of the sea? or hast thou walked in the search of the depth? Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death? Hast thou perceived the breadth of the earth? declare if thou knowest it all. Where is the way where light dwelleth? and as for darkness, where is the place thereof, That thou shouldest take it to the bound thereof, and that thou shouldest know the paths to the house thereof? Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?"

We need to walk with more humility in our own lives. God is so much greater than us, and we need to accept His ways over our own. 1 Cor. 10:12, "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*"

Jesus walked with meekness. Meekness could be translated in our language as "softness", "mildness", or "gentleness".

It is not "weakness", as people view it today. That meaning is not inherent in the Greek.

It takes a strong person to remain gentle in the face of irritation or resentment of others.

In the face of this understanding, we need to pray that more of us will acquire this trait as we walk for God.

Jesus was longsuffering. Longsuffering is patience.

God was longsuffering with Abraham in his pleading for the city of Sodom. Gen. 18:23-33, "*And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be*

found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake. And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place."

It is longsuffering to continually forgive one who has sinned against us. Matt. 18:21-22, "*Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."*

Forbearing one another in love means holding each other up; bearing with the other.

We are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

- Endeavoring means earnestly trying.
- Unity means agreement.
- Bond means that which binds us together.

The bond of peace is that which results from love, humility, meekness, and mutual forbearance, which is essential to the harmony and growth of Christians.

We are to walk in newness of life

Rom. 6:4, "*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

When we become a Christian, there is to be an entirely new status in our lives that pertains to our relationship with Christ, and our living for Him.

We are truly born again. Behold! All things are made new! New attitude; new direction; new purpose.

We are to walk in love

Eph. 5:1-2, "*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."*

"*Followers of God*" in some translations is rendered "Imitators of God".

His love has been shown to us through His Son's death on the cross.

We show our love to Him by how we imitate His love and walk in it.

We are to walk honestly

1 Thess. 4:12, “*That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, ...*”

We are ambassadors of Christ to the world. We are not to bring reproach upon Christ.

We are to walk in the light

1 John 1:7, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*”

What does that mean? The light is the word of God. When we walk, or live in the word, then we are far from sin.

When we do this we have fellowship with one another, and that strengthens us in our battle against sin.

We are to be careful how we walk

Eph. 5:15-17, “*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*”

Circumspectly means exactly, accurately, or carefully. Redeeming is to buy up. Time is opportune seasons.

Time not spent for the Lord in the past is lost. We need to walk carefully and exactly as the Lord wants us to from now on to make up for those lost opportunities.

Conclusion

How can a person walk with God? One must be a member of His family. One must become a Christian. The following are the steps necessary to make that happen:

- **Faith.** Heb. 11:6, *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”* When I was in high school (I was about 17 years old), a neighbor boy my same age told me he was an atheist. Since I had been baptized, I took the opportunity to talk to him about the scriptures. He told me that he could see that living the life of a Christian was good, but he wasn’t sure if he believed there was a God. But to be on the safe side, maybe he should go to church, and when he dies and stands before God (if there is a God) on the day of Judgment (if there is a Judgment), maybe if God sees that he has gone to church and lived a good life that God would send him to heaven (if there is a heaven), and not to hell (if there is a hell). I told him, “It doesn’t work that way. You have to believe in Him with all your heart or you cannot please Him.”
- **Repentance.** Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Acts 11:18, *“... Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”* If while you were sleeping, you heard a noise in the other room, and you think to yourself, “There’s a burglar in my house!” So you reach for your cell phone, and as quietly as you can, you call the police, tell them there is a burglar in your house, and you give them your address. Soon, you heard them arrive and capture the thief. He yells, “I’m sorry; I’m sorry!” What is he sorry for? He is sorry that he got caught; not that he stole. In true repentance the thief would be sorry that he ever stole and wants to change his life so that he would never steal again. That is true repentance. It is a change of mind that brings about a change of action. That is what we have to do before we can become a Christian.
- **Confession.** Rom. 10:9-10, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the*

mouth confession is made unto salvation.” What do we confess? That we believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Note that in the above scriptures that faith (believing), repentance, and confession are “**UNTO**” righteousness, life, or salvation. “Unto” means toward something; not that one has already attained.

- **Baptism.** It is baptism where righteousness, life, and salvation are attained. Jesus, himself, was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, “*But John forbid him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” (Matt. 3:14-17). Jesus was baptized because God said it was the right thing to do. Did you see how pleased God was about Jesus being baptized? Jesus also said “*it becometh **us** to fulfil all righteousness.*” We are baptized because it fulfills His righteousness, not because it is of our righteousness.

In fact, if we are not baptized, we are still in our sins. “*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” (Acts 2:38). Peter, what did you say the reason of baptism is? “for the remission of sins”. Why would anyone want to leave out the step that removes our sins?

Jesus commanded that to reach salvation we must be baptized. “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” (Mark 16:15-16).

Ananias told Saul (before he was rename Paul) the very same thing, “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*” (Acts 22:16). Baptism is a requirement given by God.

Baptism is called a burial. “*Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*” (Rom. 6:4). Our old man is to be dead to us. “*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into*

Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” (Rom. 6:3-6). Baptism is God’s blueprint for applying the blood of Christ in our lives by baptism. We are free from our old sins only when we are baptized.

This doesn’t mean “sprinkling. The scripture above says baptism is a burial. We don’t take a dead body to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt over it; we bury the body.

If you have not yet become a Christian, won't you consider it today?

