

## Walk This Way

The “Christian walk” is one of the major themes of the book of Ephesians. Paul uses similar illustrations in a few of his letters. This kind of imagery helps the reader understand that Christianity is a way of life, not something that just happens. We have to decide which path we want to tread. We can either walk the broad way that leads to destruction or the narrow way that leads to eternal life. Paul encourages his readers to understand that decisions are being made that affect men’s lives on a daily basis.

Paul begins using this illustrative language in chapter two, when he reminds us of how we once walked: “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience...” (Eph. 2:1-2). Before God gave us life, we were simply walking dead people. When God raised us up together with Christ, Paul says we were “Created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Those who have been saved by the grace of God are created—made new— in Christ. That means we must walk differently than we did before. Paul makes it clear that every Christian must:

1. **“Walk in Love.”** Children learn how to act by imitating their parents. We are to imitate God as “dear children.” After talking about man’s need to love all men, Jesus concludes his thoughts by saying, “Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48). John tells us that “God is love” (1 John 4:8), and “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Christ is “the image of the invisible God” (Col. 1:15). He was God in the flesh, and Paul tells us to follow his example of love. “He loved us and gave Himself for us” (Eph. 5:2). The man of the world is only concerned about self, but when he comes to Christ he must deny himself take up his cross and follow Jesus.

2. **“Walk as children of light.”** John wrote, “If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another” (1 John 1:6-7). We cannot participate in the ways of the world, and still be in fellowship with God and His people. Those who are friends with the world cannot be friends with God (Jam. 4:4). Not only must Christians avoid participating in deeds of darkness, Paul tells us that we are to “expose them” (Eph. 5:11).

3. **“Walk in Wisdom.”** Paul says, “See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise” (Eph. 5:15). Since we are to walk as children of light, we must always be aware of our surroundings. Only a fool puts himself in tempting situations that can jeopardize his relationship with God. Sometimes we find ourselves in bad situations for reasons beyond our control, but if we would “look around” more carefully, which is what circumspection is, we could often help ourselves avoid difficult situations. We have to walk wisely, not like fools.

4. **Walk Together.** Paul doesn’t use this phrase anywhere in the text of the letter, but the message is present from the beginning of chapter four. After Paul says to “walk worthy of the calling with which you were called” he continues with, “with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love” (Eph. 4:1-2). We should behave this way so that all of us can “grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ” (Eph. 4:15). In the next verse he explains that growing is the result of every person doing his part. Paul then transitions into talking about the new man. He concludes this section by revealing how the new man ought to treat his neighbor.

The end of chapter five and first part of chapter six deal with various relationships that are found within the body of Christ. Paul explains how wives and husbands should treat each other (Eph. 5:21-33); He tells children to honor and obey their parents (Eph. 6:1-2); and he tells slaves and bond-servants to do their work as if they were working for the Lord Himself (Eph. 6:5-7). How we treat each other is of great concern to Paul. We need to be working together, or even better-walking together.

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