

## In a Word: Walk - Ephesians 4:1–3

### Introduction

- One of the greatest accomplishments of life is learning to walk
  - is the God-given means of transportation
- Walk defined:
  - Putting one foot in front of the other
  - Metaphorically, walking is life, a span of time, a journey
- In the bible, the word walk is used to describe one's lifestyle, both the physical and spiritual combined
  - For each person, there is a choice, free will, given by God

### I. Two Paths of Life

- a. According to Jesus, there are only two paths we can choose to walk on:

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:13–14)

- i. The broad way, easy, smooth, pleasurable and self-satisfying
  1. It is the way the devil invites us to, as he did Adam and Eve
  2. “Come this way, God wants you to be miserable, sad, without happiness...”
- ii. It is true, the narrow way, controlled and disciplined, difficult. But the end of the walk will be worth it all!
  1. The path we chose is to be meditated on, serious thought given to it.

(26) Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. (27) Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil. (Proverbs 4:26–27)

- b. Are there really only two paths to choose from?
  - i. Can't I decide I want to walk somewhere in the middle? Can I be a moderate Christian?
  - ii. Why not enjoy the pleasures of sin and serve God at the same time?
  - iii. Can't I just be a regular person instead of a super religious one?
  - iv. Jesus said the following to the church at Laodicea...

“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (Revelation 3:15–16)

- v. We must choose one road or another, there is no in between.
- c. A paradox of life, walking the narrow path can lead to a quiet, peaceful existence, but can also lead to a life of persecution

- i. But for the person who chooses the narrow way, though his walk is difficult, it is a walk of hope for better things.

## II. The Walk of the Foolish

- a. It is a fact of life, (as Jesus said) many chose the wide road of destruction:

He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26)

- i. The walk of life we choose comes down to the decisions we make.
- ii. The addicted made the choice to take that drink, try that drug
- iii. The criminal made a choice to steal what was not his, shoot his rival
- iv. The immoral made a choice to have the affair, use foul language, use porn, harm a child
- v. Even the good person, practices morality and goodness, yet refuses Jesus
  1. Was the rich man of Luke 16 a bad person?

- b. Sadly, some Christians know better, but refuse to walk the straight and narrow

- i. In Jeremiah's warning of impending war, captivity, and destruction:

Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'" (Jeremiah 6:16)

- ii. How many of our friends, neighbors, family and even church members have the bible easily accessible but will not read it?
- iii. How many know that God desires worship in spirit and truth yet will not come?
- iv. How many are like the disciples of John 6:66...

From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. (John 6:66)

- v. They have chosen to walk with the foolish.
- vi. How do we avoid making the same mistake and walking the way of the foolish?

(16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. (17) For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. (Galatians 5:16–17)

- vii. We begin the walk in the Spirit by being obedient to the Gospel call...

## III. Walking in the Light

- a. Answering the gospel call...

- i. "We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves!"
- ii. Having answered that call, being obedient, we're encouraged to walk faithfully

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 2:6–7)

- b. This lifestyle is filled with pleasing God and doing good...
- c. We live in a way that others can observe...

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. (Colossians 4:5–6)

“Aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing. (1 Thessalonians 4:11–12)

- i. The bible is not lacking on instruction...
- ii. How do I do that? How am I to conduct myself?

Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. (Titus 2:6–8)

- iii. Be sober, not drunk with wine but filled the God’s spirit (Eph. 5:18)
  - iv. Good works are a part of my lifestyle, created a new creature in Christ, the workmanship of God created for good works that I should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)
  - v. Telling the truth, teaching the truth (John 17:17)
  - vi. Respectful, honest, one who keeps his word.
- d. We’re speaking of our reputation!

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold. (Proverbs 22:1)

- e. We walk through life having been forgiven.

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. (1 John 1:7)

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked. (1 John 2:6)

- i. Do I let my light shine, as Jesus said? (Matthew 5:16)
- ii. Do I forgive others so I will be forgiven? (Mark 11:25-26)
- iii. Our walk of faith and service is to be for a lifetime (Revelation 2:10)

(1) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1–3)