

Walking As A Christian

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Romans 8:1-14

Colossians 1:9-14



The Difficult Path (Matthew 7:13-14)

- We must enter the **NARROW** gate of **SALVATION**.
- Those who truly enter the **NARROW** gate **WALK** the **DIFFICULT** path of **SANCTIFICATION** (Holiness [see Hebrews 12:14]).
- **ONLY** that **GATE** **and** that **PATH** (way) lead to **LIFE**.

Abounding Christians (1 Thessalonians 4:1)

- Paul **urges** and **exhorts** the young Thessalonian Christians to abound more and more in their walk.
- “**WALK**” means to live; to be occupied with; to be moving ahead.
- “to walk” is περιπατέω (peripateo) and it means “to make one’s way, to progress, to live, to regulate one’s life, to conduct one’s self, to behave, to live day-by-day.”
- “to walk” signifies:
 - ❶ A voluntary act.
 - ❷ A steady advance toward a **GOAL** - see Ephesians 4:13; Philippians 3:13-14.
 - ❸ A direction or a pursuit.
 - ❹ A progress - being transformed daily. (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; 12:1-2)
- (Ephesians 4:1) We are to walk **worthy** of our **call**. “call” refers to God’s call of regeneration. At regeneration God “re-creates” us into **NEW** creatures and we become the “children of God” by the will of God. (John 1:12-13; James 1:18; 2 Cor 5:7; John 3:1-8; Romans 8:28-30; 9:11; Galatians 1:15; 2 Thess 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9; 5:10; Hebrews 3:1)
- “worthy” is ἀξιόωσ axios {ax-ee'-oce} and comes from the root which means “balancing the scales”. Since we are the children of God, heirs of God, coheirs with Christ – such a high position – then our

- lives must match “balance” with who we are!
- As the children of God we now have an obligation to walk as Christ walked by living righteous lives. (1 John 2:6; 3:1-10)
- Our “walk” in the world is to be visible to the world. (Matt 5:13-16)
- **Either** we walk “according to the course of this world and according to the prince of the power of air” (Ephesians 2:2-3) **or** we walk “worthy of the calling with which we were called” – the children of God. (Ephesians 4:1)
- “Walking” is something first **LEARNED** (i.e. infants, military) and then done without effort.
- The Christian walk (life) is never stationary – we are either climbing to **HIGHER GROUND** or going **BACKWARDS** (backsliding).
 - See Isaiah 1:4; Jeremiah 7:24; 15:6
 - In contrast to Paul: Philippians 3:12-14
- We are expected/**obligated** to grow in maturity. (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; Eph. 4:15)

Walking to Please God (v. 1)

- Our focus needs to be pleasing God and not men. (Galatians 1:10)
 - **FULLY PLEASING GOD** - Colossians 1:10
- We are to walk by **FAITH** and not by **SIGHT** – only in doing this will we please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
- We are to walk “in the Spirit” – being led by the Spirit, because “in the flesh” no one can do anything that pleases God. (Romans 8:8)
- We are to live our lives doing those things which please Him, not ourselves. (1 John 3:22; Romans 15:1-2)
- Christ is our example. (John 8:29; Romans 15:3)

Walking in Obedience (v. 2)

- Two cannot walk together unless they agree. (Amos 3:3)
- The Greek word translated “commandments” is a word used of “military order.” Christ is our Captain and we are His soldiers.
- (2 Timothy 2:4) A soldier always wants to please his commanding officer. (See Joshua 5:13-15)
- In His Great Commission to His Church, Christ commanded that we teach all to obey and do all that He taught. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- We are to walk as Christ walked. (1 John 1:7; 2:6)
- Our love for our Lord is demonstrated by our obedience to His commands. (John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14; 1 John 2:3-4; 5:1-3)

- **IF WE DO NOT OBEY WE DO NOT LOVE. IF WE DO NOT LOVE WE ARE ACCURSED!** (John 14:23-24; 1 Corinthians 16:22)

Walking to Glorify God (vv. 3-5)

- We are to walk differently than the rest of the world.
- Gentiles used “prostitutes” in their religious ceremonies. Today unbelievers and those who call themselves believers completely disregard God’s commandments to be pure and not commit fornication.
- The Holy Spirit says that THIS is the will of God for you. To commit *any* sexual immorality is to go against the will of God.
- Our bodies are NOT ours.
 - A husband’s body belongs to his wife (one wife). The wife’s body belongs to her husband (one husband). (1 Corinthians 7:4)
 - Our bodies have been bought by God. Our bodies belong to God and NOT us! We are to glorify God in our bodies. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20)
- **WHATEVER** we do we are to do it for the glory of God. (1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Peter 4:11)

Walking Cautiously (1 Thessalonians 4:6)

- We ought to walk to avoid discipline!
- God is not a respecter of persons. Consider the case of David, a man after God’s own heart!
- God **must** discipline even His own children. (Colossians 3:23-25)
- God disciplines those whom He loves. (Hebrews 12:5-6; Deut 8:5; Psalm 119:71, 75; Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; Revelation 3:19)
- We are commanded to “walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise . . . understanding what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Walking in Holiness (1 Thessalonians 4:7-8)

- God called us to a holy life – not uncleanness.
- GRACE does not mean we can do whatever we like.
- We are commanded to be HOLY as He is holy in all manners of behaviour (in all that we do). (1 Peter 1:15)
- (2 Corinthians 7:1) Since we have all the promises of God, we are to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness . . . perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- (Ephesians 5:1) We are to be followers (imitators) of God. God is holy.

- (1 Peter 2:5, 9) We are a holy priesthood and ought conduct ourselves as such.
- (Hebrews 12:14) We are to pursue holiness; without which we will not see God.

Walking in Love (1 Thessalonians 4:9-10)

- Where are your BRETHREN (brothers and sisters in Christ)?
 - ★ REMEMBER: 1 Thessalonians 2:17!
- Paul **continually** commanded his brethren to INCREASE their love for each other!! **MEDITATE ON THIS!** (1 Thessalonians 1:3; 3:12)
 - ★ Christ warned that in the end times people’s love would grow cold. (Matthew 24:12; see 2 Timothy 3:1-5)
 - ★ The opposite of SELF-DENIAL (loving one another just as Christ loves us) is SELFISHNESS - the love of self.
- The more we walk in holiness (imitating God) the more we will abound more and more in loving others.
- Jesus taught His disciples (us) that we are to love one another. The world will know that we are His disciples as they see our love for each other. (John 13:34-35; John 15:12-17)
- (Ephesians 5:2) We are to walk in love as Christ has loved us!
- (1 John 3:15) He who hates his brother is a murderer and murderers do not have eternal life in them!
- In order to abound more and more in love we must “exercise” the love that God has given to us. God puts us into circumstances to do just this!
- SECRET in growing in love more and more with each other (as Christ loves us) — _____.

Walking Properly (vv. 11-12)

- Stay calm. Be sober.
- Mind your own business.
- Do your own work.
- Be honest in all your work
- Walk properly toward those who are outside.

Will we DO or IGNORE the Word of God?

- Take seriously James 1:22