



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Walk the Walk

Date: October 27, 2024

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Notes:

Many times, the Christian lifestyle is described as a walk. When asked “how’s your walk?” we mean how are you doing in your relationship with Christ. Is it a ‘walk’ that is maturing and growing, or is it leveled off, and stagnant? Too often the answer is the latter. We find ourselves adopting the values, attitudes, behaviors, and relationships of the world around us. On the contrary, to have a fruitful, productive walk is to become more and more like Jesus. Let’s look at 4 ways to walk the walk as a Christian.

I. Walk Faithfully (1 Thess. 4:1-2)

Paul starts [chapter 4](#) describing the progressive nature of the Christian life. To be pleasing to God, the Christian needs to be maturing spiritually. The term ‘walk’ reflects the picture of the Christian following Christ through all of life (both good times and bad). To have an effective walk is to base it on scripture (*instruction*). Paul also encourages his readers that they are doing well in their walk, but there is always room for improvement ([vs. 1b](#)).

- Describe what is intended by the term “Christian walk”.
- By what measuring stick do we evaluate our walk?
- [Gen. 5:22](#) describes Enoch walked with God, [Gen. 6:9](#) describes Noah walked with God. Describe these two men who walked with God.
- What does it look like for you to walk with God?
- Is there any way to please God apart from walking as described in scripture?
- To have a pleasing walk according to the Bible, you need to know it. How well do you know the Bible? Do you know it well enough to have a pleasing walk?
- What can you do to know God’s word better and help your walk be more pleasing to God?

II. Walk in Purity (1 Thess. 4:3-8)

Often, we may seek out what God’s will is for a given situation. In [vs. 3](#), we see God’s will is your sanctification. A progressive Christian walk is another way of describing sanctification. To be sanctified is to be set apart for a purpose. For the Christian we are set apart for God’s purposes. A specific application Paul describes is abstaining from sexual impurity. In a culture where sexual immorality is boasted about and something people take pride in, the sanctified Christian needs to avoid it. This includes actions and even thoughts.



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

Jesus said in [Matt. 5:27-28](#); “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

- In a culture that takes pride in its sexual immorality, how can the Christian maintain their purity?
- Who is rejected when the Christian does not avoid sexual immorality ([vs 8](#))?
- Describe the Christian that walks in purity.

III. Walk Lovingly (1 Thess. 4:9-10)

Part of the Christian’s walk is not just the relationship with God, but also with the church, God’s family. Jesus said in [John 13:35](#) that people will know “you are My disciples if you have love for one another”. Our commitment to Christ is reflected in our commitment to our Christian brothers and sisters. For the Thessalonian Christians, Paul commended them on their love for the brethren. But he again says there is always room for improvement ([vs. 10](#)).

- Describe characteristics of a church that has a love for one another.
- How would you rate your love for your Christian brothers and sisters?
- How can a lack of love among the brethren have a negative impact on the reputation of the church?
- What areas can you improve your love for the brethren?

IV. Walk Ambitiously (1 Thess. 4:11-12)

It is thought that some Thessalonian Christians, in anticipation of the return of Christ adopted an idle lifestyle, depending on the charity of others. Paul wanted them to be industrious as part of their Christian walk. To do otherwise places a burden of dependence on the community of faith and gives a poor testimony to non-believers.

- What does it look like for the Christian today to be industrious?
- How can a Christian balance hard work and ministering to others?
- Based on the four points in today’s sermon, summarize characteristics of the Christian walk.