

Home Bible Study Series

The Christian Walk

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Prepared by:
Paul E. Cantrell
277 Deitch Lane
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

pecantrell@juno.com

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Lesson One

"Walking with God"

"Walking" is an active word! The only way that we can properly understand some verses in the Scriptures is to say they are in the "active voice"—that is, continued action! Let's illustrate!

1 John 3:8-9—***"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."***

It should be quite obvious that there is no Christian who does not sin at times! The idea would seem to be emphasizing that the true Christian does not continually walk in the way of sin—that is not his desire—that is not his practice. Notice the verse above says: ***"He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous."*** (1 Jn. 3:7). The word "practices" is an active word...continuous action. Walking is opposed to standing still. The person who walks is continually going somewhere.

In the Bible, there are many passages that talk about walking; and we have chosen some of them to be used in our study for this quarter. These lessons deal with "how" and "in what" we should walk.

God Walks Among His People!

When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, it was said that they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the Garden (Gen. 3:8). One of the great blessings of the Christian (a righteous person) is the assurance that God walks in the midst of His people. ***"I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*** (2 Cor. 6:16; Deut. 23:14). Of course, we do not see nor hear Him as Adam and Eve, nor observe the miraculous as Israel did, but by faith we know He is with His people!

Do We Walk With God?

A very important question is—do we walk with God? Several people are specifically stated to have walked with God. As our continuous study will show....this is what God wants of all of His people. It seems significant

that God chose out certain people to openly state that they walked with Him.

Enoch—“*Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.*” (Gen. 5:24) It is easy to get the idea that Enoch was a special person from what was said of him. And what made him special was his walking with God! His was a godly life that realized the constant presence of God in his life. It implies a closeness and a nearness to God. His was a life that very much pleased God.

Noah—“*Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*” (Gen. 6:9). The fact that Noah walked with God was in stark contrast to the people of his day. It is said of them that their wickedness was great on the earth and that every intent of the thoughts of their heart was only evil continually (Gen. 6:5). But Noah was the very opposite—just, righteous, honest, pious, and blameless in his life.

There are several others that are specifically pointed out to have walked with God. In addition to these, there are other expressions that are similar and important:

Abraham—“*I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.*”

Israel—“*You shall follow (walk in) the Lord your God and fear Him; and you shall keep His commandments, listen to His voice, serve Him, and cling to Him.*”

Walk in the Spirit

Also, of special interest in this lesson, we want to look at the idea of "Walking in the Spirit!" This expression is found primarily in the New Testament.

Rom. 8:1, 5—“*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.....for those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.*”

Gal. 5:16, 25—“*Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.....If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*”

The person who walks after or in the Spirit will not walk in Craftiness (2 Cor. 4:2), Disorderliness (2 Thess. 3:6), nor in the vanity of their minds

(Eph. 4:17). But in particular, such a person will not walk after the fleshly, carnal concepts or lust (1 Cor. 3:3; Gal. 5:16). This person will keep in step with the Spirit (walking side-by-side) or to walk in submission to the Spirit's Will or His leadership. Such a person will walk uprightly—walk in a straight path! Such a person will not be guilty of walking in the following sins: **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like.** (Gal. 5:19-21). But, if a person is walking in the Spirit, he will exemplify the following: **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.** Such a person has made the decision to "crucify the flesh" with its passions and desires!

Concluding Thoughts

This figure of speech (walking in the Spirit) is a vivid way of describing the kind of activities of a person's life or his moral and spiritual conduct. His life is filled with the right things, not the things that are wrong or bad. His life is in a constant struggle for supremacy of either the flesh or the Spirit. The one who walks with the Spirit is allowing the Spirit to win the battle for his life (soul).

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. "Active voice" has reference to the tense of a Greek Word that indicates continued action.
- ___ 2. The person who sins gives allegiance to the Devil and not God.
- ___ 3. To practice righteousness, one must totally avoid sin at all times.
- ___ 4. Adam and Eve walked with God in the Garden of Eden.
- ___ 5. The Bible says that God "walks" among His people.
- ___ 6. Enoch was taken to Heaven because he walked with God.
- ___ 7. Noh's life is described in stark contrast to the people of his day.
- ___ 8. "Walking in the Spirit" is not found in the Old Testament.
- ___ 9. Walking in the Spirit is in contrast to walking after the flesh or lusts.
- ___ 10. Those who walk in the Spirit will exemplify the "fruit" of the Spirit.

Lesson Two

"Avoids Walking in Darkness"

Every person who is given life and comes to the age of accountability has a choice to make:

1. To choose to walk with God; or
2. To choose to walk contrary to God (in Darkness)!

Every person who is old enough to understand has made that choice. We make that choice either directly or indirectly. We either make it after we have thought it through or we make it without spending the time (not to make it for God automatically makes it against God). (Matt. 12:30; Rom. 8:7).

Two of the Ten Commandments (Exo. 20:2-17) make it clear that God wants all people to worship Him and Him alone. Men are not to replace the true and living God with an idol made with hands. This has been the grave sin of mankind—worshipping of other gods! Idolatry is a dethroning of the true God for something that is physical or desirable but that is far inferior to Him. Idolatry can be the putting of anyone or anything before the God of Heaven. This is shown in the following passages:

Col. 3:5 _____
Matt. 10:37 _____

Description of Walking Contrary to God

1. **Stated that men walk contrary to God** (Lev. 26:23-24, 41).
2. **Walk after idol gods** (Deut. 8:19).
3. **Turn from walking in commands of God** (Jud. 2:17).
4. **Walk in stubbornness** (Deut. 29:19).
5. **Walk in sins of the father** (1 Kgs. 15:3).
6. **Walk in the Statutes of the Heathen** (2 Kgs. 17:8)
7. **Walk no more with Jesus** (Jn. 6:66)
8. **Walk disorderly** (2 Thess. 3:6).
9. **Walk as enemies of Christ** (Phil. 3:18).

It should be obvious that when people rebel against God and in their stubbornness continue in their disobedience to God's Will (because they are listening and following what men teach)—they walk contrary to the Will of God.

Another concept that is closely tied in with the above expression is—**Walking in Darkness!** The wise man stated that a person is a "fool" who walks in darkness! (Eccl. 2:14; Prov. 2:13). Jesus said that a person who walks in darkness does not know where he is going (Jn. 12:35). The Apostle John says—if a person says that they have fellowship with God and walk in darkness, they "**lie and do not practice the truth.**" (1 Jn. 1:6). He added that one who hates his brother walks in darkness and the darkness has blinded his eyes. (1 Jn. 2:11).

The following things are said about those who walk in darkness:

1. They stumble in their walk (Nah. 2:5).
2. They continue to walk in sin (2 Kgs. 13:6).
3. They walk in vanity (Job 31:5).
4. They walk in the counsel of the ungodly (Ps. 1:1).
5. They walk with a perverse mouth or speech (Prov. 6:12; 19:1).
6. They are rebellious and follow their own thoughts (Isa. 65:2).
7. They walk after things that do not profit (Jer. 2:8).
8. They walk in their own devices (Ps. 81:12).
9. They walk in evil (Prov. 1:15-16).
10. They walk after vanity (Jer. 18:12).
11. They walk in their own counsels, stubbornness, and evil heart (Jer. 7:24).
12. They walk according to the course of this world (Eph. 2:2).
13. They walk in lasciviousness and their own lust (1 Pet. 4:3; 2 Pet. 3:3).
14. Their walk is an ungodly walk (Jude 18).

The above statements are obviously speaking of people who choose not to walk after God. The Scriptures give us a choice—walk after the flesh or after the Spirit (Gal. 5:16; Rom. 8:5)—Walk in darkness or light (1 Jn. 1:5-7). God does not seem to give us a third choice—it is one or the other.

Walking after other gods

To walk after other gods is not a reality! There are no other gods. There is only One God (Deut. 6:4). We either worship and serve Him or not. Idol gods are not really gods, but the imagination of the minds of people and the works of men's hands (Isa. 37:19; Jer. 2:11). Actually, the use of the term "gods" is an accommodative concept. The Apostle talks about the worship and sacrificing to "gods" as being, in reality, a worship and sacrifice to "demons!" (1 Cor. 10:19-21). God alone is worthy of man's worship and service. To offer such to a person or thing is condemned as worthless. We do not have a choice of "gods" to worship; but, we do

have a choice of whether we will correctly worship the one true God of Heaven or not.

It is rather interesting to notice the process of people's minds in regards to "gods."

1. They invent in their minds a "so-called god."
2. They even give them a name worthy of being a "god."
3. They even draw pictures of such or fashion them out of wood or metal that makes them visible to their sight.
4. They pray and offer sacrifice to such as though they really exists.
5. But their "god" never speaks to them nor hears them.

The world before the time of the giving of the Law of Moses was wholly given over to idolatry—the above process! But even the Israelite nation was pulled into idolatry practices off and on over the centuries.

Today, we can still see the Idol "gods" of man's making. However, man has matured in his understanding and have given up such foolishness. But they still have the "gods" of their own inventions that they put before the true and living God (Col. 3:5; 1 Tim. 6:9; Matt. 10:37). Whatever we place before God in our lives becomes our "Idol god"!

Concluding Thoughts

Who and what do you and I worship and serve? God places the choice clearly before us—God or Mammon (Matt. 6:24). He has made it clear that He alone is worthy of man's worship. If we will not love and serve Him; then, we are not walking in the light but are walking in "darkness!"

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. Every human being has to make a choice about God—there are no exceptions.
- ___ 2. People who will not think their decision through in order to make a decision will automatically make a decision against God.
- ___ 3. Four of the Ten Commandments make it clear that God alone is to be worshipped.
- ___ 4. Those who walk contrary to the Will of God follow the thinking of men.
- ___ 5. The person who walks in Darkness is said to be a fool and does not know where he is going.
- ___ 6. A person who hates his brother walks in darkness.

- ___ 7. The walk in darkness is the walk of the ungodly.

- ___ 8. There is no such reality as "gods!"

- ___ 9. Worshipping of "gods" is a worship of "demons!"

- ___ 10. "Gods" are the invention of men's minds.

*Lesson Three***"Walking in Newness of Life"**

It should be obvious that the Christian is expected to walk in **"newness of life"** (Rom. 6:4) and not according to the flesh (Rom. 8:5) nor according to the course of this world (Eph. 2:2). We are exhorted to put off our former conduct that was corrupt and be renewed in the spirit of our minds (Eph. 4:22-23). We need to walk worthy of our calling in all lowliness and gentleness with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love. (Eph. 4:1-2). Our walk is a continuous one—all the way to the end (Rev. 2:10). Such is referred to as a putting off the old man and putting on the new man that is according to true righteousness and holiness (Eph. 4:22-24). We cease being a servant of sin and become a servant of righteousness (Rom. 6:17-18). One brings death; the other brings life (Rom. 6:23).

Walking by Faith

This walk in Newness of Life is a walk of Faith! (2 Cor. 5:7). The contrast is that we walk by faith and not by sight! We do not walk by our own ideas or thinking, but according to God's directions. We are to be careful to observe all the works of the Law of God (Deut. 28:58). Faith that is not obedient is dead, worthless (Jas. 2:24). Faith is a walk! It is a walk in the "newness of life!" Giving recognition to Jesus as being Lord and Christ is right and good, but our faith must be more than recognition (Rom. 10:9-10). If He is Lord then I must be obedient to Him or be condemned (Matt. 7:21-23). We are obedient to Him whether we fully understand the "why" of His commands or not. We do what He says because we have put our faith or trust in Him as our Lord. This kind of faith will sustain us in our trials and tribulations (Jas. 1:2-4). Both the Old and New Testaments stress that man's survival spiritually depends upon his faith (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 5:1; Gal. 3:11). This kind of faith will give us the ultimate victory over all things (1 Cor. 15:57-58). We need to be "grounded" in this faith, "established" in this faith, and "steadfast" in this faith (Col. 2:5-7). We need to strive to have a great faith in which we walk (2 Thess. 1:3).

Walking in the Light

This walk in Newness of Life is a walking in the Light (Isa. 2:5; Ps. 56:13; 89:15; 1 Jn. 1:7; Rev. 21:24). We walk in Light because we are children of light (Eph. 5:8). The Prophet Hosea calls upon those who are wise to understand these things and by discernment to know them. The

righteous will walk in the ways of the Lord, but transgressors will stumble in them (Hos. 14:9). Jesus calls upon men to follow Him and if they will, they will walk in light and not darkness (Jn. 8:12). If we walk in the light, we will walk in all of God's ways (Deut. 11:22) or walk in His statutes and commands (Lev. 26:3). This was emphasized over and over in the Old Testament! The New Testament states that if we will walk in the Light, we have the promise of fellowship with God and the continual cleansing from all sin (1 Jn. 1:7). If a person claims that he is walking in Jesus (in the Light); then, he should walk just as Jesus walked (1 Jn. 2:6). Also, if a person says that he is in the light but he hates his brother; he is wrong—he is still in darkness! (1 Jn. 2:9). It is the obedient ones that walk in light and the disobedient ones who walk in darkness. Those who walk in light, walk in the newness of life; but those who will not respect Jesus' Lordship still walk in darkness!

Walking in Truth

This walking in Newness of Life is a walking in Truth! (1 Kgs. 3:6, 14; Ps. 86:11; 1 Kgs. 2:4; Isa. 38:3; 2 Jn. 4, 6; 3 Jn. 3, 4). We walk in truth because we are children of truth! We love the truth of God (2 Thess. 2:10) because we have come to know and believe this truth (1 Thess. 4:3). We not only know truth, but we speak truth to everyone (Eph. 4:25). Those who will not believe and follow the truth walk in the "old" way of living—not the Newness of Life! (2 Thess. 2:10). This truth (and grace) came by Jesus! (Jn. 1:17). If we walk in darkness and think we are walking in truth, we deceive ourselves (1 Jn. 1:6). Only those who walk in light walk in truth (1 Jn. 2:3-4). We know that we are walking in truth when we walk in God's ways, doing what is right in His sight, observing His statutes and commands (1 Kgs. 11:38; Jn. 18:37; 1 Pet. 1:22). God loves those who walk in truth (2 Jn. 1). We need to not only be obedient to this truth but to be established in this truth (2 Pet. 1:12). If any err from this truth, he needs to be restored (Jas. 5:19).

Walking in Good Works

This walking in Newness of Life is a walking in good works! (Rom. 2:10). Our lives are to be:

1. A pattern of good works (Tit. 2:7).
2. Zealous of good works (Tit. 2:14).
3. Ready unto every good work (Tit. 3:1).
4. Maintain good works (Tit. 3:8).
5. Ready to meet urgent needs (Tit. 3:14).
6. Not slothful in work (Prov. 18:9).
7. Have a faith that works through love (Gal. 5:6).

8. Not to allow our works to deny Jesus (Tit. 1:16).

We have ceased serving sin and have begun our life of serving righteousness (Rom. 6:19). However, there were people that Jesus spoke about that claimed they had done many mighty works, but such were useless—because they did not walk in obedience to God's truth (Matt. 7:21-23). Jesus said they were workers of iniquity. We certainly must not be deceitful works (2 Cor. 11:13). Our works are to be done in quietness (2 Thess. 3:12)

Concluding Thoughts

If we walk in Newness of Life, we will:

1. Walk in faith;
2. Walk in the light;
3. Walk in truth;
4. Walk in good works.
5. Walk as Jesus walked!

All of these things tie together to show us how the Christian should walk in this life.

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. Walking in Newness of Life only has reference to becoming a Christian.
- ___ 2. The term "walking" shows that it is an active life.
- ___ 3. Jesus must be Lord of my life, but my obedience has nothing to do with my being saved or righteous.
- ___ 4. Walking by faith and walking in the light are two entirely different things.
- ___ 5. Only Christians can walk in the light.
- ___ 6. Forgiveness and Fellowship with God can only be attained by walking in the light.
- ___ 7. People can only walk in truth if they know the truth.
- ___ 8. A person can deceive himself into thinking he is walking in truth.
- ___ 9. What we do can determine if we are with Jesus or against Him.
- ___ 10. People can do mighty works and still not be acceptable to God.

Lesson Four

"Walking with the Proper Spirit"

The Bible uses the word "walk" or "walking" in reference to a lot of activities. We have already looked at the following:

1. Walking with God.
2. God walks among His people.
3. Walk in the Spirit.
4. Avoid walking in Darkness.
5. Walking contrary to God's Will.
6. Walking after idol gods.
7. Walking in Newness of Life.
8. Walking by Faith.
9. Walking in the Light.
10. Walking in Truth.
11. Walking in Good Works.

In this lesson we will continue looking at additional phrases about our walk in this life. We introduce this lesson with a general phrase (title) and then continue our listing of the things in which Christians are to walk.

A Walk of Humility

God wants His people to walk in humility before Him (Micah 6:8). We are exhorted to have a humbleness of mind (Col. 3:12). God wants His people to be clothed with humility (1 Pet. 5:5). He wants us to serve Him with all humility (Acts 20:19). The Lord listens to the cry of the humble (Ps. 9:12; 10:12, 17). The humble will be upheld by his honor (Prov. 29:23).

How do we show humility?

1. Change from showing a lofty look (Isa. 2:11).
2. By fasting before the Lord (Ps. 35:13).
3. By changing our hearts (Dan. 5:22).
4. To become like a little child (Matt. 18:4).
5. By being obedient to God like Jesus (Phil. 2:8).
6. In the fear of the Lord (Prov. 22:4).
7. In a general sense, God can humble us (2 Cor. 12:21).

What will be the outcome of walking in humility?

1. God gives grace to the humble (Jas. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:5; 2 Sam. 16:4).
2. We will be exalted (Lk. 14:11; 18:14).
3. We will be lifted up (Jas. 4:10; 1 Pet. 5:6).

4. Wrath will be turned away (2 Chron. 12:12).

The proud and the haughty will be humbled either here or hereafter! God wants His people to be humble people—or to walk in humility!

Walk in Honesty or Nobleness

For some reason, the later versions do not use the idea of honesty. In Rom. 13:13, The old King James Version stated: **"Let us walk in honesty."** The new King James Version says: **"Let us walk properly."** The idea behind the Greek words would seem to be that of "excellence," "decently," "becoming," "gravity," or "venerableness."

God wants His people to have a regard for "good" things and to provide honorable things in the sight of all men (Rom. 12:17; 2 Cor. 8:21). Our conduct is to be honorable (honest) among unbelievers (1 Pet. 2:12). We are to meditate on noble (honest) things (Phil. 4:8). We are to do the honorable thing and live an honorable life (2 Cor. 13:7; Heb. 13:18). We are exhorted to live in godliness and reverence (honesty) (1 Tim. 2:2). There are several passages that speak of our walking in integrity, which would seem to be close to the same concept (1 Kgs. 9:4; 8:23; 2 Chron. 6:14; Ps. 15:2; 26:11; Prov. 20:7). An honest man would certainly be considered a noble man.

Walk in the Fear of the Lord

When men forsake the fear of the Lord, they go into ungodliness and unrighteousness (Job 6:14; 15:4; Rom. 3:18; 1:18). We are admonished to **"fear the Lord"** (Acts 9:31; 1 Pet. 2:17; Neh. 5:9). We are to serve the Lord with fear—it is something we choose to do (Prov. 1:29). The Prophet Malachi rebuked God's people with a question: **"A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect (fear)?"** The fear of God was obviously not there—they needed to be taught to fear the Lord (Ps. 34:11).

The outcome of fearing the Lord:

1. It is the means of gaining wisdom (Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Prov. 1:7; 9:10).
2. It is to hate evil (Prov. 8:13).
3. It will prolong our days on the earth (Prov. 10:27).
4. It will give a strong confidence (Prov. 14:26).
5. It is a fountain of life (Prov. 14:27).
6. It tends to life (Prov. 19:23).

7. It is a means of perfecting holiness (2 Cor. 7:1).
8. It will cause us to submit to one another (Eph. 5:21).
9. It will cause us to depart from evil (Prov. 3:7).
10. It will work righteousness (Acts 10:35).
11. We will be blessed (Ps. 112:1).

God wants mankind to fear Him, respect and reverence Him, so that He can bless us with all the above things.

Concluding Thoughts

Our emphasis in this lesson is to show the spirit with which we are to walk before God and our fellow-man. We are to have a humble spirit, an honest and honorable heart, and a heart that fears, respects, and reverences the true God of Heaven. All of us can see the need for such, as well as, the value of such. If we desire to walk with God and He with us, we can only have such by listening to His instructions and walking accordingly.

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. Only God can give a clothing of humility.
- ___ 2. The humble is upheld by his honorableness.
- ___ 3. A lofty look is a haughty look.
- ___ 4. Jesus showed humility before His Father in Heaven.
- ___ 5. The humble will be exalted or lifted up to a high position among men.
- ___ 6. God will humble the proud person in this life.
- ___ 7. Later versions of the Bible do not use the expression of walking in honesty.
- ___ 8. Honesty and nobleness are not the same thing.
- ___ 9. Men have to choose to serve the Lord in fear.
- ___ 10. Walking in fear will help us to perfect holiness.

Lesson Five

"Walking in Love"

We walk with God by Faith! But, we also walk with God in the hope of a resurrection unto eternal life. In order to receive that reward, we have to walk with God in love! The Apostle Paul stated: "**And now abide faith, hope, and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**" (1 Cor. 13:13). A basic reason why love is the greatest is:

1. Faith will no longer be necessary in Heaven;
2. Hope will be a reality also;
3. Love will be eternal—for God is Love! (1 Jn. 4:8).

Jesus also reminds us that there is no greater expression of love than that a person will lay down his life for another (Jn. 15:13). Jesus actually did this for us (Jn. 10:14-15).

We are admonished to walk in love (Eph. 5:2) and not to walk in craftiness (2 Cor. 4:2). There are three basic concepts of love that the Greeks identified with special words. They are as follows:

- 1) **Storge**—Family love, natural love that should exist between family members. The Gentile world was condemned by God for their lack of this natural affection (Rom. 1:30). The term "kinship" is a way of referring to this natural affection that should exist in a family. This should automatically be there unless it is destroyed by wrong-doing.
- 2) **Phileo**—Warm, close companionship, friendship, or a special relationship. The Home should be made up of a close-knit loving family. But Christ must be first if a choice must be made between family and Him (Matt. 10:37).
- 3) **Agape**—A self-giving love—passionate good will—sacrifice of self for others. This is the kind of love demonstrated by God and Christ for mankind. This is the kind of love that a husband should have towards his wife and the wife towards her husband (Eph. 5:25, 28, 33).

The word that we will be referring to throughout this Lesson will be agape or Agapao—Godly love. This love is exemplified by both the Father and the Son (Jn. 3:16; 3:35; 10:14-15). We are admonished to love as they loved one another and as they loved us. This is not only a great challenge, but probably the greatest challenge that we will face as a Christian!

To Whom is this Love to be Expressed?

We are commanded to:

1. **Love God, Deity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).** (Matt. 22:37). This is to be done with our heart, soul, mind, and (strength).
2. **We are to love our Neighbor.** (Matt. 22:39). This is to be done by loving them like we love ourselves.
3. **We are to love our enemies.** (Matt. 5:44-46). We show this love when we bless those who curse us, do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who spitefully use us and persecute us.
4. **We are to love our brethren.** (Jn. 15:12; 1 Pet. 2:17). In Rom. 13:8, it says we are to love one another. When we do so, we fulfill the Law of God in regards to our brother.
5. **Husbands are to love their wives.** (Eph. 5:25, 28). It is to be done in the same manner as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it; or to the same degree that he loves himself..
6. **Wives are to love their Husbands.** (Titus 2:4). This is the only time that this word (phileo) is used as a command in regards to a husband.
7. **Mothers are to love their children.** (Titus 2:4). This is the only time that this word (phileo) is used as a command in regards to children.
8. **Children are to love their parents.** In reality, there is no such command, as such. However, the following commands would seem to infer such:
 - ◇ 1 Tim. 5:4—Show piety to parents.
 - ◇ 2 Tim. 3:2; Rom. 1:30—both passages condemn children who do not respect their parents.
 - ◇ The Greeks had a word for such (**Storge**), but it is not used in the New Testament.
9. **We are to love righteousness.** (Heb. 1:9).

It is said of this love that it is new! (Jn. 13:34). A phrase is added in this verse that seems to qualify how it is new—**"as I have loved you!"**

Things we are not to love!

1. We are not to love the praises of men. (Jn. 12:43). These people are said to have a faith in Jesus being the Messiah, but they would not openly confess him for fear of being put out of the Synagogue. Their faith was a dead one (Jas. 2:17-24).

2. We are not to love this present world. (2 Tim. 4:10). Sometimes we have to make a choice between two things. Jesus said if we love parents and family more than Him, we are not worthy of Him—we cannot be His

disciple. (Matt. 10:37). It is wonderful when parents and family believe and live as I do, but it is a challenge when they turn their back on Christ. The same thing seems to be involved in loving this present world. The pull of the world can be strong and can pull us away from God if we allow such. We must not love the world more than we love God.

3. We are not to love the wages of unrighteousness. (2 Pet. 2:15). The false teachers were led astray from the truth because of their love of money.

How do we Show our Love?

God and His Son both demonstrated their love to all mankind (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:16). Now, God calls upon those who would follow Him to express this same love to one another in particular. How to we show our love to and for God and to one another?

1. **Keeping God's Commandments.** (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:2-3).
2. **Keeping His Words.** (Jn. 14:23-24).
3. **Express it cheerfully in our giving to God.** (2 Cor. 9:7; 8:7-8).
4. **Express it with a pure heart fervently.** (1 Pet. 1:22).
5. **Express it in Word and in Deed.** (1 Jn. 3:18).
6. **By doing good to all men and no harm.** (Rom. 15:2; 13:8-10; Gal. 6:10).

Blessings Brought!

When we love God and our fellow-man and show it by our attitude and actions, the following things are the blessings to be received by such:

1. **All things will work for our good.** (Rom. 8:28).
2. **We are more than conquerors.** (Rom. 8:37).
3. **We will be fulfilling the Law of God.** (Rom. 13:8).
4. **We will receive what God has prepared for us.** (1 Cor. 2:9).
5. **We will be known of God.** (1 Cor. 8:3).
6. **We will receive God's Grace.** (Eph. 6:24)
7. **We will be chastened by God for our good.** (Heb. 12:6).
8. **We will receive a crown of life.** (Jas. 1:12).
9. **We will be heirs of the Kingdom.** (Jas. 2:5).
10. **It will be obvious that we are born of God and know Him.** (1 Jn. 4:7).
11. **God will dwell in us.** (1 Jn. 4:12).

Concluding Thoughts

To love as God loved us is to think and act like God. We are easily identified as the children of God. The Scripture clearly indicate that the world will know we are the Disciples of Jesus when they see that we love one another. (Jn. 13:35). Jesus said that those who love Him will be loved by His Father, as well as by Himself (Jn. 14:21). We really have a great challenge---**to Walk in Love!**

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. We walk by faith, but we walk in love.
- ___ 2. Love is greater than faith and hope because it requires more of us.
- ___ 3. Storge is the Greek word for love of family, but it never appears in the Greek New Testament.
- ___ 4. Phileo is what happens naturally between two individuals, but Agape has to be commanded or is exercised by our will power.
- ___ 5. There are at least 9 different things or beings we are commanded to love.
- ___ 6. It is sinful to love this present world.
- ___ 7. Our giving to God has nothing to do with our loving God.
- ___ 8. This love is to be express to all men!
- ___ 9. Love of one's neighbor will cause us to fulfill all of what God commands of us to do toward our neighbor.
- ___ 10. Loving as God loved is a sure sign that we have been born again.

Lesson Six

"Walking in the Old Paths"

The Wise man strongly advises us to give God our hearts and let our eyes observe His ways. (Prov. 23:26). One thing that is obvious, the ways of man are constantly before the Lord (Prov. 5:21). The Prophet Jeremiah records: "**Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; and you will find rest for your souls.**" (6:16). God's way is called the way of holiness that we are to walk in (Isa. 35:8). We should desire the old or ancient ways that is referred to as the way of righteousness (Prov. 8:20). It is also called the "just" way and the way to "life" (Isa. 26:7; Prov. 10:17). We should earnestly consider our ways and be sure we are in God's way (Ps. 119:59). If we will stay in this way, we will prosper and be safe (Gen. 18:19; Josh. 1:8; Ps. 10:5; Prov. 3:23). It is a perfect way (2 Sam. 22:31). We should delight in God's way (Ps. 37:23) and be blessed (Ps. 119:1).

Many do not walk this way

Many refuse to walk in the Way that God directs!

1. They walk in the ways of death (Prov. 14:12).
2. They forsake God's ways for their own ways (Prov. 15:10; 2 Pet. 2:15).
3. They pervert the way of the Lord (Prov. 10:9; Num. 22:32).
4. They are slothful about walking in God's way (Prov. 15:19).
5. They are stubborn about listening to God (Judges 2:19).
6. They walk in wickedness (Job 22:15; Ps. 1:6), evil (Ps. 119:101), the false way (Ps. 119:104), Violence (Prov. 1:19), and the crooked ways (Prov. 2:15).

However, the meek and humble will willingly be taught God's ways (Ps. 25:9, 12); and they will commit their way to the Lord (Ps. 37:5). We must take heed to our ways (Ps. 39:1) and seek the Lord to teach us of His ways (Ps. 86:11). Then, we will keep His ways and preserve our souls (Prov. 16:17).

The Way of Wisdom

The way of the Lord is obviously the way of wisdom. If we will walk His way, we will walk with wise men (Prov. 13:20); but more importantly, we will walk wisely and be blessed (Prov. 28:26). David is an example of one who conducted himself wisely before men (1 Sam. 18:14). When we walk in Jesus, we walk in wisdom (Col. 4:5). This way is a way worthy of

the Lord (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:15). It is a proper (honest) walk (1 Thess. 4:12). To walk this way will be pleasing to the Lord (1 Thess. 4:1).

A Way of Oneness (Unity)

The Old Paths is a way of unity and oneness. This oneness and unity are emphasized in various ways. Inspiration tells us that God made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on the earth (Acts 17:26). Deity is spoken of as being "one" God; but, He is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; Rom. 8:9, etc.). The great "mystery" of God that was hid from the foundation of the world was that both Jew and Gentile would be made "one" in Christ Jesus—being reconciled through the Cross of Christ (Eph. 2:13-16). He not only made Jew and Gentile one, but He reconciled them in "one" body (the church). The Psalmist expressed the beauty and desirability of this oneness (Ps. 133:1). The early church enjoyed this oneness of mind and heart as they worshipped and worked together to reach the lost in their area of living (Acts 4:32). God speaks of marriage as the joining together of a man and woman so that they can be "one flesh." (Mk. 10:8).

However, there is a sleight problem with this "oneness!" It has to be worked at in order to maintain such. God saves His people and adds them to His church (Acts 2:47); but, if they do not seek diligently to maintain that oneness, they will become divided (Eph. 4:3). There are many members in this one body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13); but, they each must have the same care one for another to maintain that oneness (1 Cor. 12:25). Inspiration gives us seven things that help to make possible our oneness as a people of God in Eph. 4:4-7. In verse 3 we are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Then, in verses 11-16, he describes the kinds of leaders that are needed in the church to help maintain this oneness. Love is the spiritual outlook that will help to maintain our oneness as a people (Jn. 13:35; Eph. 4:15; Rom. 13:8-10).

A Way of Peace

The Old Paths is a way of peace with one another and peace with God. When we are justified by faith in Christ, we have peace with God through Jesus our Lord (Rom. 5:1). This peace can guard our minds and hearts and give us great contentment (Phil. 4:7; 4:11-12). Jesus came to give peace and make peace possible upon the earth (Lk. 2:14). We are to preach the gospel of peace to all men (Acts 10:36; Rom. 10:15). Unrighteous people do not enjoy this peace that we have (Rom. 3:17). Those who are spiritually-minded can live a life of peace (Rom. 8:6). We

must follow after the things which make for peace (Rom. 14:19). God is not the author of confusion, but of peace (Rom. 14:33). Therefore, we should let the peace of God rule in our hearts (Col. 3:15). God exhorts His people to be at peace with all men (Heb. 12:14). Jesus said that the peace-maker is blessed of God (Matt. 5:9).

Concluding Thoughts

The walk with God is the "only" way to walk! This way is filled with all spiritual blessings that are found in Christ (Eph. 1:3). This way is the way everlasting (Ps. 139:24). We need to diligently learn this way (Jer. 12:16); and we often will need to be taught the way of the Lord more perfectly (Acts 18:26).

But all who journey this way will face troubles (Ps. 139:7). And sooner or later we will go the way of all men (Josh. 23:14; Heb. 9:27). Whether we face troubles or death itself, the Lord has promised to be with us and He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to handle (1 Cor. 10:13); and we have His assurance of victory not only in times of trouble, but in death itself (1 Cor. 15:57). Why shouldn't we want to walk with God and look forward someday of walking into that beautiful city that is everlasting (Rev. 21:1-5).

Questions for Discussion

True or False

- ___ 1. The old paths are referring to the way that the Jews traveled.
- ___ 2. We have a choice of either walking in the ways of death or the ways of life.
- ___ 3. The stubborn man will keep on until he finds the way of God.
- ___ 4. We can only walk the way of God if we seek God.
- ___ 5. David is an example who walked wisely in the midst of God's people.
- ___ 6. The way of God is the way of oneness.
- ___ 7. Oneness does not mean that we all believe exactly alike.
- ___ 8. God makes us one in Christ when we are justified by faith.
- ___ 9. To be spiritually-minded is the way of peace.
- ___ 10. The walk with God is called the way everlasting.

