

ROM 239 - Walk Like a Christian - Rom 12:9-21

In the Bible - the Word **WALK** means
to order your steps - - to direct your life

& today we're going to look at **TWO Truths** about
"Walking Like a Christian"

- 1) **HOW** we can ***"Walk Like a Christian"***
- 2) **WHAT** it Looks Like to ***"Walk Like a Christian"***

But to lead into that - we've got to do a quick review
of the **1st 11 CH's of Romans**

So I think we better **PRAY** right up front

Let's Pray

We spent **11 Ch's** in Romans
learning **HOW** God makes this happen

Before we ever starting learning - **WHAT** it looks like
when this **does happen** in our lives

So - Let's begin by reviewing **HOW**
God **Prepares** us to - to ***"Walk Like a Christian"***

In the **1st 3 Ch's** of **Rom's** we **RECOGNIZED**
we are **sinner**s by **Nature** & by **Choice**

in **CH's 3 & 4** - we **RECEIVED** the righteousness of God
thru **FAITH** in Jesus Christ alone

in CH'S 5 & 6 we learned about our TWO NATURES

& we learned - that being IN CHRIST - means POSITIONALLY

We have DIED to sin (in Christ)

& have RISEN (in Christ) to "***WALK in Newness of Life***"

Rom 6:4 - ESV

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

That is INCREDIBLE - *Positionally*

HOWEVER - We must fully **RECKON** it (put it to our account)

We must ACCEPT IT - & Put It into ACTION

Rom 6:11 - ESV

11 So you also must consider yourselves [reckon yourselves] **dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus**.

So far - we have

- 1) - RECOGNIZE we are Sinners, hopeless on our own
 - 2) - RECEIVE our Righteousness & Position thru faith in Jesus Christ
 - 3) - RECKON (put to our account) our New Life in Christ
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Next - we have to correctly **RESPOND** to our New Life IN CHRIST

& Rom 6:13 gives us that RESPONSE

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

The **EVIDENCE** that we have **RECEIVED** New Life in Christ is that we **RESPOND** - by turning **From SIN** & Turning **To GOD**

Remember - we're talking about - **HOW** to "***Walk Like a Christian***" & now we've got;

- 1) - **RECOGNIZE** we are **Sinners**, hopeless on our own
 - 2) - **RECEIVE** our **Righteousness** & **Position** thru faith in Jesus
 - 3) - **RECKON** (put to our account) our NEW LIFE in Christ
 - 4) - **RESPOND** correctly - by choosing God over Sin
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BUT - HOW do we **RESPOND** correctly ?

Even **ROM CH 7** says

there's **NOT ENUF TRY** in us - to be able to **RESPOND** Correctly

But then - just when we **think** we're SUNK

Paul **reveals** one of the **most powerful truths** for a Christian to know in all of the Bible

He tells us in **ROM CH 8** - how to **LIVE** in the **SPIRIT**

Rom 8:5-6 - ESV

5 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 set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

To **Live in the Spirit** - we must **SET** our **MINDS** on the Spirit

If we **Set our Mind** on the things of the **FLESH**
we will bring **DEATH** into our lives

If we **Set your Mind** on the things of the **SPIRIT**
we will bring **LIFE & PEACE** into our life

BUUUTTTTT . . . HOWWWW !!!

How do we set our **Minds** on the things of the Spirit
to the extent that we **CRUCIFY the Flesh**
& **LIVE** according to the Spirit

& **THAT** question we answered - in our 2-Part Msg
BE TRANSFORMED - from **Rom 12:1-2** (*Get it*)

Rom 12:1-2 says (very clearly) - OUR PART is;

- 1) **Surrender** our lives completely to God (in every area)
- 2) **Renew** our Minds
- 3) **Conform** our Wills to His

& remember **Rom 12:1-2** - is the **FOUNDATION**
for **everything else** taught in the remainder of Romans

So **get** that Two Part Msg - "**BE TRANSFORMED**" - & listen

OK - NOW here's what we've got - Leading up to today's message

- 1) - **RECOGNIZE** we are **Sinners**, hopeless on our own
- 2) - **RECEIVE** our **Righteousness** & **Position** thru **faith** in Jesus
- 3) - **RECKON** (put to our account) our **NEW LIFE** in Christ
- 4) - **RESPOND** correctly - by **choosing God** over Sin
- 5) - **LIVE** according to the **Spirit**, by;
 - a) **SURRENDERING** our lives **completely** to God
 - b) **RENEWING** our Minds
 - c) **CONFORMING** our Will to His

& (*believe it or not*) the **foundation**
of all this **TRANSFORMATION** in our lives is;

- 1) **DAILY WORSHIP** - in every area of our lives
- 2) **DAILY WORD** - consuming it, & applying it
- 3) **DAILY PRAYER** - constant intimate communion with God

THAT is actually (truly) the **RECIPE** for our **Transformation**

Man . . . **THAT** is quite a **REVIEW**

& **THAT** - is Actually the **PROCESS** of becoming
what was called in the 1st century - a **Little Christ**

which was originally a **DEROGATORY** term

But **from** that term - we got our word **Christian**
which **means LIT** - **Little Christ**

& what our message today is about
is **WALKING** like a **Christian** (a little Christ)

But - but before we could talk about "***Walking like a Christian***"

We had to be **REMINDED** of the **MIRACLE**
of **HOW** God makes us - *a Little Christ*

That's why we did the Review

Now - as a *LAUNCH-PAD* to "***Walking Like A Christian***"
we've got to read **Rom 12:1-2**

This is where "***Walking Like a Christian***" starts

Rom 12:1-2 - ESV

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- a) **SURRENDERING** our lives completely to God (living sacrifice)
- b) **RENEWING** our Minds
- c) **CONFORMING** our Will to His

So that we can - "***Walk Like a Christian***"

So - **REMEMBER** - Today's msg *is not* about **trying harder**
to make yourself a "***better person***"

Today's Msg is about what it **looks like**
when we are being **TRANSFORMED** into "Little Christ's"
When we are "***Walking like a Christian***"

Now (finally) our **text** today is broken down into **TWO** Major Areas:

- 1) How we are to **Walk** - toward those **INSIDE** the church
- 2) How we are to **Walk** - toward those **OUTSIDE** the church

Vs's 9-13 - is How it looks, when we are "**Walking Like a Christian**" toward those **INSIDE** the church

Rom 12:9 - ESV

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

After all that **TRANSFORMATION** - the first sign of **Walking like a Christian inside** the church - Is **LOVE**

But this is **NO LOVE** like **WE** know it in **OUR** own Nature this is the **AGAPE** love of God

This is the **UNCONDITIONAL** - **SACRIFICIAL** love of God that **Rom 5:5** says *has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us*

& the 1st sign of "**Walking Like a Christian**" (inside the church)

is making sure we have **GENUINE AGAPE** love which means **LIT** - **WITHOUT HYPOCRICY**

& then the **rest of V.9** - is actually written as an **EXAMPLE** of that Genuine **AGAPE** Love

Let your **AGAPE** love be Genuine - **BY** **Hating** what is **EVIL**, & **Holding Fast** to what is **GOOD**

The **FIRST sign** of "**Walking Like a Christian**" Is Genuine **AGAPE LOVE** !

& the SECOND sign - of "***Walking Like a Christian***"
INSIDE the church - is - - - LOVE !!!

Rom 12:10 - ESV

10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

#2 - "*Walking Like a Christian*" INSIDE the church
is again - about LOVE

But ***here*** it's a DIFFERENT word for love

THIS word for Love - comes from the GK word STORGE
which is the LOVE of a FAMILY

This is the POWERFUL love of a family
that's meant to be an UNBREAKABLE BOND

NO MATTER WHAT - FAMILY is FAMILY
& NOTHING breaks that BOND

& here God calls us to love one another in the church
with ***that same*** type of Love

Which is why V.10 says
Love one another with brotherly affection

That is - the Love of FAMILY

& then the end of the VS is again
an EXAMPLE of Loving one another with that FAMILY love

The **ESV** says

Outdo one another in showing honor

The **NIV** translates it

Honor one another above yourselves

This is how we should **LOVE** one another - as **FAMILY**

NEXT - In **Vs's 11 & 12** - Paul stresses **FIVE ATTITUDES**
that mark the ***WALK of a Christian - INSIDE the church***

In **Vs.11** - the **Primary Subject** - is actually at the **END** of the sentence
which is - **Serve the Lord**

& the **2 attitudes** before it
are **HOW** we are to **Serve the Lord**

Rom 12:11 - ESV

11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

In **Serving the Lord** - **DO NOT** be slothful (lazy) in your **ZEAL**

Remember from our last Msg
the word "**ZEAL**" means - be **Passionate** - take it **Seriously**

& **here** the Word says - do **NOT BE LAZY**
in our **Passion** (zeal) for **Serving God**

& **then also** - we are to be **'Fervent in spirit'**

& **this phrase** can actually be translated two ways

Be fervent in your **Own** "attitude" (spirit) - OR

Be fervent in the power of the **Holy Spirit**

Either way - the word **FERVENT** means *LIT* - **TO BOIL !!!**

& I think that gets *the thought across* perfectly

So - Don't be **LAZY** in your **PASSION**

& **BOIL** in your Attitude - to Serve the Lord - - (*man, I like that*)

V.12 continues the attitudes that mark the **WALK** of a Christian
INSIDE the church

& v.12 can be seen as a **CONTINUATION**
of **HOW** we are to *Serve the Lord* (from **v.11**)

Rom 12:12 - ESV

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

These are absolute **CRITICAL signs** of the "*Walk of a Christian*"
because they are so **Contrary** to *the World*

Our **HOPE** is in *Jesus Christ*

& in **THAT Hope** we can ***ALWAYS REJOICE***

& **when** we do - We are an **Example** & an **Encouragement**
to others **INSIDE** the Church

& **ALSO** - when we are **Patient in Tribulation**

STEADFAST in the Storm - not **Wavering**

Trusting that God will absolutely bring us thru - to **HIS Glory**

THAT is a Very Powerful mark - of "*Walking Like a Christian*"

& **lastly** in this verse is - be "***Constant in prayer***"
it means to be - "***Constant in prayer***"

Which **is another** Very Powerful mark - of "***Walking Like a Christian***"

In **SERVING** the Lord - we are to be;

Passionate (Zealous)

Boiling (Fervent)

Rejoicing (in Hope)

Patient (in Tribulation)

Constant (in Prayer)

WOW - - **THAT is a HUGE calling** - Isn't it ?

I CAN'T DO THAT !!!

The **ONLY** way this can ever happen in our life is;

- 1) - **RECOGNIZE** we are **Sinners**, hopeless on our own
- 2) - **RECEIVE** our **Righteousness** & **Position** thru **faith** in Jesus
- 3) - **RECKON** (put to our account) our **NEW LIFE** in Christ
- 4) - **RESPOND** correctly - by **choosing God** over Sin
- 5) - **LIVE** according to the **Spirit**, by;
 - a) **SURRENDERING** our lives **completely** to God
 - b) **RENEWING** our Minds
 - c) **CONFORMING** our Will to His

& **THAT** - is the **ONLY** way we will **EVER** be able to **truly**
"WALK LIKE A CHRISTIAN"

OK - there are two more TRAITS here
of "*Walking Like a Christian*" INSIDE the Church

Rom 12:13 - ESV

13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

A BIG part of "*Walking like a Christian*" is GIVING
both financially, and giving of yourself

& I promise you - Miracle's occur when Christians GIVE

The only way this church

can continue to meet the needs of the saints,
both here in Nuevo & beyond - is for Christians to GIVE

& honestly - in difficult economic times (like these)
Christians often stop giving

But God's Word promises you & I - if we will GIVE - *He will provide !*
that's one of the clearest promises in all of the Bible

In order to "*Walk Like a Christian*" - we are called to GIVE

AND - to *show hospitality* - which means to care for strangers

which is also GIVING or ourselves

OK - that ends the EVIDENCE LIST
of "*Walking Like a Christian*" INSIDE the church

& now starting in V.14 - We see what it looks like to
"*Walk Like a Christian*" OUTSIDE the church

Rom 12:14 - ESV (walking OUTSIDE the church)
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Sometimes it seems this applies to those INSIDE the church
But that's not how it's supposed to be

We are supposed to be persecuted from those outside the church
& when we are - we are to ***BLESS those who persecute us***

Jesus said in the **Sermon on the Mount** (Mat 5:44)
44 . . . Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

& that sounds just **CRAZY enough** to be a **TESTIMONY**
& a **WITNESS** to the World, doesn't it ?

Which is **exactly the point** of "*Walking Like a Christian*"
OUTSIDE the Church

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them

I think that's **pretty clear** - - **AND** By The Way
it can also be used (if needed) **INSIDE** the church

Next - in Vs's 15 & 16 Romans tells us we are to live in harmony *with those around us*

The Primary Subject here, is at the beginning of V.16 so let's look at that first

ROM 12:16(A) - ESV

16 Live in harmony with one another. . . .

Now - this may sound STRANGE when applied to those OUTSIDE the Church

but this is a difficult phrase in the GREEK to translate

In the simplest language it means - GET ALONG with others

More Directly - it means;

Don't be ABRASIVE to those Outside the church

DON'T OFFEND unbelievers, *with your attitude*

Remember - the Only people Jesus was ABRASIVE & OFFENSIVE to were Religious Leaders !!

so now that we understand the Primary Subject these 2 verses fall right into place

Rom 12:15-16 - ESV → →

Rom 12:15-16 - ESV

15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

16 Live in harmony [get along] with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.

I believe these are incredible **EVANGELISM SECRETS**

Have **EMPATHY** with those around you (*rejoice* & *weep*)

Don't be **HAUGHTY** - Don't be **PROUD**

Be **HUMBLE**, associate with the lowly

& please - don't be a "**KNOW IT ALL**"

THAT - is a GREAT WAY - to "***Walk Like a Christian***"

toward those **OUTSIDE** the Church - Isn't it ?

Continuing what it **LOOKS LIKE** to "***Walk Like a Christian***"

OUTSIDE the church

Rom 12:17-18 - ESV

17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.

18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Again - these are - **Incredible** - **Effective** - **Real Life**

EVANGELISM techniques

In regard to those **OUTSIDE** the church;

DO NOT repay Evil for Evil

STOP & **THINK**, & **DO** what is **HONORABLE**

As much as depends on you - **LIVE PEACABLY** with all

& what an incredible tool **we would be** in the hand of God,
if we were to **WALK** this way
in regard to all those **OUTSIDE** the church

THIS is "***Living in the Spirit***" - AND "***Walking Like a Christian***"

V.19 continues this **same thought**

Rom 12:19 - ESV

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

If someone **OUTSIDE** the church **REALLY** does you wrong

ZECH 2 says - ***he who touches YOU, touches the apple of HIS eye***

& **the Lord says** to you

"it's OK, I've got this one, I can take care of it"

SO - - - ***LET HIM !***

Continuing this **Radical thought** in the next Vs

Rom 12:20 says - ESV → →

Rom 12:20 - ESV

20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

This is actually **a quote** from **PROV 25**

& the "**Prevailing Interpretation**" has to do with

bringing a sense of **REMORSE**, and possibly even **REPENTANCE**
upon your enemies head - **FOR HIS GOOD**

The **other interpretation** is - this is
the **Burning Coals** of God's **JUDGMENT**

EITHER way - We are to **be KIND**, & even **sacrifice**,
for our **enemies**

& we are to **let God** take care of the **rest**

OK - **Now** - **finally**

How to "***Walk Like a Christian***" to those **OUTSIDE** the church
is **SUMMARIZED** in our last Vs today

Rom 12:21 - ESV

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

I don't know **how** we could **better SUMMARIZE**
what it **looks like** to "***Walk Like a Christian***"
to those **OUTSIDE** the church

THIS is a great **SUMMARY** statement

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

What a **Great & Practical** Section of what it LOOKS LIKE
when we "**Walk Like a Christian**"

both **INSIDE** & **OUTSIDE** the Church

But to close - let's be reminded - the **ONLY** way this **NEW LIFE**
can **actually become** a daily **part** of our lives

Is to:

- 1) - **RECOGNIZE** we are **Sinners**, hopeless on our own
- 2) - **RECEIVE** our **Righteousness & Position** thru **faith** in Jesus
- 3) - **RECKON** (put to our account) our **NEW LIFE** in Christ
- 4) - **RESPOND** correctly - by **choosing God** over Sin
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 - a) **SURRENDERING** our lives completely to God
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THAT is **HOW** - we can "**Walk Like a Christian**"
both **INSIDE** & **OUTSIDE** the Church

NOW - Let's go be **TRANSFORMED**,
into **WALKING** Christians

Let's Pray