

Christ our Example

Today we will be looking at examples Jesus set for us in John's letter.

Let me start with a question.

S- What is God? This seems to be evident, **but is it?**

A Kindergarten Teacher told everyone to draw a picture of what was important to them. In the back of the class Johnny began to labor over his drawing. Everybody finished and handed in their drawings except Johnny. "Johnny, what are you drawing?" asked the Teacher. He said "God." "But Johnny," she said gently, "no one knows what God looks like." He answered, "They will when I'm through."

PK- We know what God does, He creates, He holds all things together among other things, **but what is He?** I believe it is very important to have an accurate understanding of **what God is.**

S- James Montgomery Boice I believe nailed it, "The other writers tell us what God does. Some describe the glory that surrounds Him. **But John tells what God is in His true nature.** He does this in three striking definitions:

S1- God is spirit, John 4:24 "*God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*"

S2-God is light, 1 John 1:5 "*...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*"

S3- God is love, 1 John 4:8 "*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*"

S- It is characteristic of these three definitions that the predicates occur without the definite article. We are told, then, **not that God is *the* Spirit, *the* light, and *the* love** or even, in all probability, ***a* spirit, *a* light, and *a* love,**

S- but rather, **Spirit, Light, and Love THEMSELVES.** In this we have the broadest and most comprehensive definition of God that can probably be devised in human language.”

S- PK- **God is Spirit, God is Light and God is Love, embodied! God is Spirit** therefore, He is Omnipresent, **God is Light** therefore He exposes ALL darkness, **God is loves** because He is Love; Everything that He does is motivated by LOVE.

We will be covering three Categories of Christ’s examples in this study today:

Our Walk in His Light

Our Righteousness from Abiding in Christ and

Our Love that reflects His Mercy and Grace within

- 1) **Christ our Example:** In Our Christian Walk, **John starts with a statement of truth.**

S- 1John 1:5, *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that **God is light** and in Him is no darkness at all.”*

PK- Followed by a qualifier,

S- 1John 1:6, *“If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth”*

PK- You see; in order to have fellowship with Christ, **we cannot** be walking **in darkness**. Remember, **He is our Example as the Light of the world!**

John gives us another Truth.

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

PK- In this verse the word “**walk**” equates to our **day-to-day life**, how we **live** and **think** and **feel** and **act** as we walk in fellowship with Christ in His light and have fellowship with the body of Christ. His light **illuminates** our path that He is leading us on. Jesus invite us to **walk with Him**, just as He did with Adam in the cool of the evening in the garden before the fall.

David Guzik comments on this, “**But if we walk in the light:** This means to walk in a generally obedient life, **without harboring known sin** or resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit on a particular point.

John’s message here means that a **walk in the light** is *possible*. We know that on this side of eternity, *sinless perfection* is not possible. Yet we can still **walk in the light**, so John does mean perfect obedience.

The Christian life is described as walking, which implies *activity*. Christian life feeds upon contemplation, but it displays itself in action. “**Walking**” implies action, continuity, and progress. Since God is active and walking, if you have fellowship with Him, you will also be active and walking.”

PK- Another truth that we gain from this verse is that fellow Christians that walk in the light enjoy fellowship with one another. We see this in the café before and after services.

That is another reason **Home Fellowships** are so popular, that's where the enlightened hang out together and shine their lights during the week.

John quotes Jesus in his gospel about walking in the light.

S- John 8:12 *“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘**I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.**’”*

PK- Our day-to-day life is to be a reflection of our radiance we receive from our time spent with the Light of the world.

S- Romans 6:4 *“Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**”*

PK- Christ is our example, even leading us onto the path of the **newness of life.**

Did you catch that we were buried with Christ through Baptism.
Commercial Break: There is a Baptism next Sunday!

S- Light in a philosophical sense
speaks of illumination, knowledge.

S- Light in a moral sense speaks of purity, righteousness.

Darkness relates to impurity and sin.

Christ's **walked** in purity and righteousness, therefore,
He is our Example.

PK- We are to be holy as He is holy by following His example.

S- John 1:4-5, *“**In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**”*

PK- Our life is in Christ, He gives Life and Light to all those who seek after Him, darkness will never overcome the life that Jesus fills with His Light.

NEXT, We are to Abide in Christ

S- 1John 2:6, “He who says he **abides in Him** ought himself also to **walk just as He walked.**”

S- Secret of victory is found in text, “**He who says he abides in Him.**”

Abide= S1- to remain; stay

S2- to have one’s abode; dwell; reside

S3- to wait

PK- Abide also implies *resting* in Christ

I love to picture putting on Christ, like an overcoat taking on His appearance and character.

S- Jesus said, John 15:5, “*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides in me** and I in him, bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*”

S- Wiersbe clarifies how we abide, “Christ lives out His life through us by the power of the Spirit, who lives within our bodies. It is not by means of **imitation** that we abide in Christ and walk as He walked. No, it is through **incarnation**: through His Spirit, “Christ liveth in me.” To walk in the light is to “**Walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh**”, **Galatians 5:16.**

S- Psalms 91:1 “He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

PK- Is there any other place you would rather be? It is secret to those who don't have a relationship with the Almighty King of ALL creation.

NEXT: Our Identity in Christ Now and for Eternity

S- **1John 3:2,** *“Beloved, now **we** are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what **we** shall be, but **we** know that when **He** is revealed, **we** shall be like Him, for **we** shall see Him as He is.”*

PK- **This is mind blowing!** What hope! We are going to be like Jesus in heaven, but we can strive today as we walk **NOW in the power of His Spirit, KNOWING**, what rewards awaits us, Just as Jesus did. **It's all about perspective, knowledge and faith.**

S- **Hebrews 12:1-2** helps us in our focus, *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and **let us run with endurance** the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith, who for **the joy that was set before Him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

PK- We can only complete this race by keeping our eyes, heart and mind focused on the goal. Just as the Olympic runner stays determined with all that is in them to reach that finish line, we too must live an intentional, purposeful life to hear that golden phrase, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”*

Paul now gives us right thinking goals!

S- Romans 8:18, *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with **the glory which shall be revealed in us.**”*

Christ our Example in: Righteousness or Right Standing with God.

S- 1John 3:3, *“And everyone who has this hope **in Him** purifies himself, just as **He is pure.**”*

PK- Purifying is associated with Hope.

S- Titus 2:11–13, *“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **training us** to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to **live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives (pure or holy)** in this present age, waiting for **our Blessed Hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,**”*

PK- What power there is knowing what waits ahead!

S- Keys to holiness:

S1- Knowing who you are. A: A child of God, a King’s kid

S2- Knowing where you are going. A: To be with the King!

Illustration of setting a goal.

On a farm, everyone has to pitch in to make things work. Once a lady who was inexperienced at driving a tractor was asked by her husband to drive a tractor across a field pulling a disc. Not sure how to do the job her husband instructed her to pick out an object

at the end of the field and drive toward it, that way her path would remain straight.

So she put the tractor in gear and off she went toward the other end of the field. It wasn't long before she noticed her husband running alongside the tractor trying to get her attention. She stopped and asked, "What's wrong?"

Upon looking at him she noticed that her path was rather crooked as opposed to the straight line she needed to drive. Her husband again explained she needed to pick out an object and drive toward it. She said, "*I did.*"

"*What are you driving toward?*" he asked. She pointed to the object down at the end of the row, which at that point she realized was a bird which had been hopping across the ground.

We have to be careful when we set our mark that we set it on something or someone that is sure and stationary.

APPLICATION

The mark set by the world is ever shifting, but the truths found in Christ are sure and stationary. To keep our lives heading in the right direction, we need to make sure we set our mark on **Jesus**.

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

PK- The apostle Paul set an example for us.

"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." 1 Corinthians 11:1

PK- The apostle Peter understood the directive to follow Christ's example.

S- **1 Peter 1:15–16**, *“but as He who called you is **holy**, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”*

PK- Remember, we have an enemy that is working to derail our progress, no one has said that this would be easy, did they?

S- **1John 3:7**, *“Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just **as He is righteous.**”*

PK- This is a truth that our enemy tries to tell us lies that we are not worthy of righteousness. The truth is your righteousness is a result of what **Christ did on the cross**, it cannot be tampered with, it is implanted in you at your **“Rebirth” and sealed by the Holy Spirit**. Satan is going to try and deceive you into believing that you are not worthy to be righteous, and he is right, but it has nothing to do with me, it has everything to do with **the blood of our righteous and holy Savior Jesus Christ!**

S- Let's read **1 John 3:4-10** in the NLT,

“Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. ⁵And you know that Jesus came to take away our sins, and there is no sin in Him. ⁶Anyone who continues to live in Him will not sin. But anyone who keeps on sinning does not know Him or understands who He is.

⁷Dear children, don't let anyone deceive you about this: When people do what is right, it shows that they are righteous, even as Christ is righteous. ⁸But when people keep on sinning, it shows

that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Those who have been born into God's family do not make a practice of sinning, because **God's life is in them**. So they can't keep on sinning, because they are **children of God**. ¹⁰ So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God."

PK- As Christ is our example, our righteousness is from Him, we are endowed with His Spirit to overcome the powers of the enemy. What we have given up in the world pales in comparison to what awaits us in glory.

S- Philippians 3:8-9, "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, **not having my own righteousness**, which is from the law, but that which is **through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith.**"

Christ our Example: In Love

S- 1John 3:23-24, "And this is His commandment: that we should **believe** on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and **love** one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments **abides in Him**, and **He in him**. And by this we **know** that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

PK- Test time

S- How did Jesus command that we should love?

Mark 12:30-31, *'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'* This is the first commandment. 31 *"And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no other commandment greater than these."

PK- Treat others as you want to be treated, with the love of Jesus.

Jesus shows our Final Example- His LOVE

S- **John 13:34**, *"Love one another as I have loved you."*

PK- Jesus has shown His love in a multitude of ways.

S- **1John 4:17**, *"Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the Day of Judgment; because **as He is, so are we in this world.**"*

PK- Finally, the greatest love ever displayed to the world, no greater love...

S- **John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have **everlasting life.**"*

S- **1John 3:18**, *"Let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and truth."*

Finally we

S- **The greatest folly** is to go out and try to imitate Christ's walk, righteousness or love in your own power and abilities,

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13

S1- Walk associated with **abiding**.

S2- Righteousness associated with **new life and hope**.

S3- Love associated with **God indwelling us. (Incarnation, not imitation.)**