

The Narrow Gate and Path: Walking Steadily in Grace

Matthew 7:13-14

Two Gates : Two Paths

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." **Matthew 7:13-14**

Jesus reduces every belief system to:

- Two gates
- Two paths
- That's it

The Shocking Exclusivity

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." **John 14:6**

This contradicts our culture's spiritual syncretism

- The world says: Many ways to God
- Jesus says: Only one way leads to life

Three crucial questions we must face...

Question 1 - Why Do So Many Choose the Wide Gate?

Because it seems right to us

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." **Proverbs 14:12**

The wide gate accommodates:

- Our pride and desire for control
- Religion without surrender
- Trust in our own efforts while appearing spiritual

Before pointing fingers - examine yourself: What are you trusting for your standing with God?

Question 2 - What Makes the Narrow Gate So Narrow?

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved..." **John 10:9**

The gate is narrow because it requires:

- **Complete abandonment** of self-righteousness
- **Admission** of spiritual bankruptcy before holy God
- **Faith in Christ alone** - not Christ plus our efforts

Stop trying to widen the gate - it's narrow by God's design

Question 3 - Why Do So Few Find It?

Sin has corrupted our nature - we cannot see spiritual truth clearly

Notice the word "find":

- Suggests discovery rather than human searching
- Points to God's sovereign grace in salvation
- We don't find it through searching - God reveals it

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

If You Can See the Gate Today...

That's not your natural wisdom - that's God's grace

- Don't resist it
- Don't delay
- Enter through Christ while the Spirit is calling

The narrow gate isn't harsh - it's hope

It's God's provision for people who could never save themselves

Grace Keeps Us on the Path

After entering the narrow gate, we discover:

- We don't immediately become steady walkers
- We still oscillate between spiritual extremes
- **The beauty:** Grace doesn't abandon us to inconsistency

Grace keeps us on the path as we learn to walk

How Grace Works - Dying to Self

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." **Matthew 16:24**

Grace teaches us to die to ourselves daily:

- Say no to things that don't conform us to Christ
- **Grace doesn't just save us - it empowers us**
- Daily dying to self is how we win the battle with sin

This becomes possible because our identity is secure in Christ

How Grace Works - Renewing Our Minds

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." **Romans 12:2**

When we oscillate, it's often because we believe lies instead of the truth

Scripture provides objective reality when feelings mislead:

- God feels distant → Scripture: He'll never leave you
- You've failed too badly → Scripture: No condemnation in Christ

Counter every lie with specific Scripture

The Call to Stop Being a Spiritual Ping-Pong Ball

- **For those oscillating between works and despair:**
 - **The narrow gate is open - Christ is the way**
 - **For believers struggling with consistency:**
 - **Grace sustains you, not your performance - keep walking**
- **For those growing steadily:**
 - **Encourage others still learning to find their footing**
 - **Will you enter through grace and walk in grace?
Jesus is calling.**