

How to Walk in a Worthy Manner

A Model for Developing Christlikeness

THE GOAL

To walk in a manner worthy of a disciple of Christ
1 Thessalonians 2:11-12; Colossians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-2; Philippians 1:27

THE CALLING

What are disciples called to do?
Obey all that Christ commanded
Matthew 28:19-20

What has Christ commanded?
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul
Matthew 22:37

Love your neighbor as yourself
Matthew 22:39

THE MODEL

How do we learn to love God and others?

Let the Peace of Christ rule your hearts
Colossians 3:15

This is your emotional life. Let the fact that Christ has made peace between you and God bring a calmness to your emotions.

Let the Word of Christ rule your minds
Colossians 3:16

This is your thought life. Hide God's Word in you so that it becomes a first thought when faced with the trials of life.

Let the Name of Christ rule your words
Colossians 3:17

This is your speech. The words that come out of our mouths should reflect the words that Christ himself would say in a similar situation.

Let the Name of Christ rule your deeds
Colossians 3:17

This is your actions. Your behavior throughout the day should reflect the actions that Christ himself would do in a similar situation.

THE MEANS

How do we develop that habits of a Christlike disciple?

We have a passive and active role in being conformed to the image of Christ

The Work of the Holy Spirit in Us

His Divine Power Has Given Us Everything We Need for a Godly Life

2 Peter 1:3-4

He Who Began a Good Work in You Will Bring It to Completion

Philippians 1:6

Our Responsibility to Grow in Grace and Knowledge

Make Every Effort to Add to Your Faith

2 Peter 1:5-11

Work Out Your Salvation

Philippians 4:12

So, if the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of Christlikeness in us,
but we have the responsibility to grow up, what should we do?

THE METHOD

The Path of the Holy Spirit is found in Abiding in Christ

Jesus tells his disciples to abide in him so that they can bear the fruit of Christlikeness.

This fruit proves that we are disciples of Jesus. (John 15:1-17)

⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:4-8

In this passage, we are given three methods of abiding in Christ:

Abiding in His Word

We need to engage Scripture on a daily basis

Abiding in Prayer

We need to let our requests be made know to the Father in the name of Jesus

Abide in Christian Community

We need to meet regularly with other believers for edification and encouragement

The Path of Wisdom

Loving God as a Christlike Disciple

HUMILITY

Loving God with Our Thoughts

Humility begins with our we think of ourselves in light of who God is

*5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, **though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,** 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*
Philippians 2:5-8

Questions for Self-Reflection

- Do I reflect on my place as a created being who is subject to a Divine Creator?
- Am I growing in awareness of the sin in my life that is grieving the Spirit?
- Do I look for biblical teachings on God to keep myself in perspective?
- Do I practice thinking less about myself and more about God?
- Do I receive correction without defensiveness?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

- Meditate on Philippians 2:1-11
- Ask yourself when you get angry/frustrated why you felt like you deserved something better
- Look for opportunities to serve in the unnoticed roles in church

CONTENTMENT

Loving God with Our Emotions

Contentment is the peace of heart found in resting in God's sovereignty

*11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for **I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content.** 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*
Philippians 4:11-13

Questions for Self-Reflection

- Is my joy anchored in Christ rather than my circumstances?
- Am I able to trust in God's protection and provision in the midst of a trial?
- How do I respond when I am inconvenienced or don't receive what I expected?
- Do I compare my life to what appears to be the joy of those around me?
- Am I able to celebrate the accomplishments of others without jealousy?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

- Meditate on Philippians 4:11-13
- End the day by thanking God for three ways your life is blessed right now
- Practice fasting and taking a Sabbath rest

The Path of Wisdom

Loving God as a Christlike Disciple

THANKFULNESS

Loving God with Our Words

Gratitude guards our mouths from complaining or corrupting speech

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Questions for Self-Reflection

Are my prayers filled more with problems and petitions than thankfulness?
Have I considered all the thinkings I possess are gifts from God?
AM I able to overcome worry by trusting God's ability to provide all that I need?
Do I look for the goodness of God in the midst of trials?
How often do I speak of the goodness of God?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Begin your prayer time by praising God before you ask for anything
Start a journal for writing down prayer requests and tracking God's answers to those requests

GODLINESS

Loving God with Our Actions

Godliness is training our actions to be obedient to Christ's commands

*7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather **train yourself for godliness**; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.* *1 Timothy 4:7-9*

Questions for Self-Reflection

Do my actions reflect a desire to please God more than people?
Do I pursue holiness even when no one may ever know about it?
Am I prepared to immediately obey the commands of Scripture?
Am I asking the Spirit to convict me of anything that grieves Him?
What desires of my heart are hindering my total obedience to God?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

Meditate on Colossians 3:1-17
Think about what you should stop doing as well as what you should start doing
Practice immediate obedience

The Path of Courage

Loving Others as a Christlike Disciple

HONOR

Loving Others with Our Thoughts

Honoring others comes from seeing their intrinsic value as image bearers of our Creator

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

Romans 12:10

Questions for Self-Reflection

Do I see others as image-bearers or as obstacles to my own desires?

Do I entertain critical or demeaning thoughts of others?

Am I looking for ways to speak well of or to others?

Am I considering the intrinsic value of the person with whom I am frustrated?

Do I count others as better than myself?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

Memorize Romans 12:10

Pray for the blessing of someone who is currently frustrating you

Volunteer in some ministry that cares for the needs of the marginalized

COMPASSION

Loving Others with Our Emotions

Compassion produces a desire to relieve the suffering of another

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3:12-14

Questions for Self-Reflection

Do I feel sympathy for those who are suffering?

Do I practice patience and kindness for those who are in need?

Am I moved to act when I see a need?

Am I willing to overlook the offence of another because of God's grace to me?

Do I look for opportunities to care for the needs of my brothers and sisters in Christ?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

Meditate on Colossians 3:11-14

Try to meet one tangible need for a person each week

Practice helping someone who has nothing to offer you in return

The Path of Courage

Loving Others as a Christlike Disciple

TRUTHFULNESS

Loving Others with Our Words

Truth spoken in love builds trust with others

25 Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another...29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.
Ephesians 4:25, 29

Questions for Self-Reflection

- Do my words heal or harm?
- Are my words consistently honest and edifying?
- Do I speak the truth in love?
- Do I embellish my speech to impress others or protect my reputation?
- Do I use sarcasm as a passive aggressive way to speak truth?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

- Memorize Ephesians 4:29
- Practice THINKing before you speak: Is it True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, and Kind?
- Confess falsehoods promptly

GOODNESS

Loving Others with Our Actions

Good is a moral action to benefit another

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
Galatians 6:9-10

Questions for Self-Reflection

- Do I seek the well-being of others through acts of kindness?
- Do my actions point people toward or away from Christ?
- Are my actions pretending and performing or are they a response to the goodness of God?
- Do I resist repaying evil with evil?
- Am I quick to forgive for the good of those who wronged me?

Beginning Steps for our Walk

- Memorize Galatians 6:10
- Perform a random act of kindness each week
- Build rhythms of generosity with your time, talents, and treasure