



Blackfoot

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Let's Take A Walk, Ephesians 5:1-2

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The words sprint, dash, job, trot, compare with the world "walk" as the speedy hare with the plodding tortoise. These words speak of greater-than-normal exertion, because "in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize" (1 Corinthians 9:24). As the tortoise came on to beat the hare, so the one who walks "in love" will in fact be victorious in the pursuit of life eternal.

"Walk" is used in the Bible to (1) indicate normal moving around. This is the sense of the word used when Jesus was coming to the disciples (Matthew 14:25ff). When Paul tells the Ephesians to walk in love, and as children of light (5:8), "walk" refers (2) to the journey of life. On this journey, how are we to walk? We begin with the passage just cited: we must walk in love. If we truly walk in love we will obey Him; "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments" (1 John 5:3).

If we walk in love of God, our walk with our fellow man is natural. So Paul writes, "Let all that you do be done in love" (1 Corinthians 16:14).

We "walk ... according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:4). Those who walk according to the Spirit arrange their lives as the Spirit directs, because "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

There is a choice we must make, between flesh and spirit - Romans 8:5-8: "For those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God."

"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" (1 John 1:7). Understanding "walking in the light" is helped by considering walking in darkness. One does not have to do only sin, to be walking in darkness; he is just indifferent to the light, walking (living) as it suits him; and occasionally, maybe accidentally, doing something good.

By the same token, one does not have to be sinless to be walking in the light – his aim and preference is to be obeying God, and when he stumbles, if he repents and confesses his sins, the blood of Jesus cleanses him. People who are "in the light" are already acquainted with the blood of Jesus. There is no forgiveness of sins "without the shedding of blood" (Hebrews 9:22), but "it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins" (Hebrews 10:4). The writer of Hebrews talks about the impossibility of goats' and bulls' blood for purification of the flesh, and then asks, "how much more will the blood of Christ, who though the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:13-14). The blood of Christ is the price of forgiveness for every sinner. It is therefore the price for forgiveness for a straying Christian.

This is what John is saying, in First John 1:7. We must watch where we walk. "Blessed is the man, who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly ...".

We should walk in "good works" (Ephesians 2:10), "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Do some have the idea that being a Christian simply requires abstaining from that which

is evil, with no concern about doing good? When Scripture says we are created in Christ Jesus for good works? Jesus called us the “salt of the earth” and “the light of the world”, and said “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:13-16).

We read about the urgency of doing “good works” in Hebrews 10:24-25: “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another ...”. Here is instruction looking squarely at our duty for good works, and for assembling with brethren to encourage them to good works. Good works include everything we may do, for our neighbor or our brother; Jesus said “And whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 10:42).

Saints fail in their reason for being if they neglect this responsibility for which they were created in Christ Jesus.

We must “walk in wisdom” in our dealings with those who are not in Christ (Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 5:15-17). Carelessness in word or deed may slam a door that could have been opened. We need to give thought to know how to answer each person. Speaking “the truth in love” does not look at the message, the message is always to be “the truth.” Speaking the truth in love looks at the messenger, and his attitude and handling of the word, to speak that word in the most effective way possible.

“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Ben will be traveling next weekend
- Tammy Woodward is suffering serious effects from cancerous brain tumors.
- Several of our number are in the recovery phase of surgeries
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Tonight's bible class is postponed till next week
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24
- Business Meeting after services this morning

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<p><u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Ray Mitchell Lord's Table – Ben Palmer Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Ray Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>
<p><u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward</p>	<p><u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward</p>

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
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Meeting Times:

Sunday Class 10:00AM
Sunday Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Class 7:30PM



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