

Glory
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Ephesians 5:8-10

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit *is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;*)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

Last week The Lord used this text of scripture to introduce us to some things that are acceptable and some things that are not acceptable to Him.

Today we are going to look a little deeper into verses 8 and 9 and hopefully see what 'walking as Children of Light' really entails.

Within the first 12 verses of Ephesians Chapter 5; 8 of those first 12 verses are about what we should not do; about what is not acceptable to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:3-4

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. And so on...

These things certainly have to be addressed: however, avoiding sin does not mean that you are walking as Children of Light nor does it prove or demonstrate what is acceptable to the Lord.

As a matter of fact, you will not be long in avoiding these and other sins unless these things are replaced with others that are good and right and acceptable.

In other words, it is our walk in the right direction that keeps us from walking in the wrong direction.

Have you ever asked yourself, “Why? Why does God care how I walk? Why does it matter to Him how I live? What’s in it for God how I walk, one way or the other?”

Over and over again we are commanded and admonished to walk in the right direction for the Lord. This term ‘walk’ simply refers to the daily living of our lives.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying,

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:25

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:10

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1John 2:6

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

The Bible commands us to walk, walk, walk and keep walking...but **where** are we walking **to**?

We are not doing this to get to Heaven; Jesus already took care of that for us.

We are not doing this in order to be accepted by the Lord; Jesus already took care of that, too.

Ephesians 1:6

To the praise of the glory of his grace, **wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.**

I am one of those weird people who need to know where we are going. If you say to me, "Let's go for a walk", I am going to ask, "Where are we going"?

Some people like to hike; I can hike, too...IF I am hiking TO somewhere I want to go. I am not walking up a mountain unless there is something up there worth walking to, like a lake or a trout stream.

Today we are going to find out what we are walking to; where is this walk in the Spirit designed to take us...and why?

Some of us need to know that. Some of us may stop short unless we know what the goal really is.

Earlier we said, "Why does God care how I walk? Why does it matter to Him how I live? What's in it for God how I walk, one way or the other?"

These questions may very well sound irreverent to you; they are, however, very good questions that need to be answered; especially

for those of us who need to understand where we are walking **to**.

So today we will address those questions; first:

I. Why does God care how I walk?

A. God cares how I walk because He loves us.

1. Why do you care how your children live?
2. Because you love them and thus you want what is best for them.
3. How many parents do we have here this morning?
4. How many of you parents think you probably know what is best for your children better than they do?
5. The truth is, you probably do...How much more then, does God, our Creator and Savior, who loved us more than life itself; whose wisdom surpasses anything ever imagined...know what is best for us?
6. You know, it could be that your hard-headed kids got their hard heads from you.

B. God cares how I walk because wrong directions have consequences.

1. God commands us to walk in the Spirit for the same reason that moms tell their kids not to run with scissors in their hands.

2. Sin has consequences!

3. **James 1:12-16**

- 12 Blessed *is* the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.
- 13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
- 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.
- 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.
- 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

4. Jesus healed an impotent man who had been bedfast for 38 years; what Jesus told him afterward lets us know that some particular sin had likely put him on that bed.

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, **Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**

5. All sin has consequences; unfortunately, fear of consequences is not always enough to turn us away from it.

II. Why does God care how I live?

A. For one thing, how you live affects the lives of others.

1. **Romans 14:7**

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

2. Somebody...as a matter of fact, many somebodies, are watching your life and some of them will emulate you regardless of how poor your choices may be.

3. Most smokers have parents or peers who smoked.

4. Most alcoholics have parents or peers who drank.

5. If you live together without getting married, what do you think your little girl and your little boy are going to do when they come of age?

6. If you yell and scream at your children, what do you think they will do to their children?

B. Another important reason is that you bear the name 'Christian'.

1. **2Timothy 2:19**

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them

that are his. And, **Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.**

2. A pastor should have a good name; I think most everyone would agree to that.

1 Timothy 3:7

Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

3. We are required to live lives that do not dishonor the name we bear.

4. Proverbs 22:1

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favor rather than silver and gold.

5. You ought to have a good name as well.

So then:

III. What's in it for God how I walk; one way or the other?

A. If we do walk in or after the Spirit, where will that walk in the Spirit ultimately take us?

1. Verse 9 of our text tells us:

Ephesians 5:9

(For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

2. Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there
is no law.

3. The things the Spirit of God produces in us are wonderful and amazing (read them again.)

4. But what are they for; what are these things designed to produce in us?

5. Yes, they make us better.

6. Yes, they cause us to avoid sinful consequences.

7. Yes, they make us better examples to others.

8. Yes, they give us a more honorable name.

9. But, is that it? Is that the ultimate goal?

B. If you want to understand the ultimate goal of the Holy Spirit in you, you must go back to the purpose for which Jesus sent Him...

1. John 16:7-14

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

14 **He shall glorify me:**

2. Did you get that? All the gifts, all the progress, all the improvement, all the knowledge, all the wisdom, all the comfort...they are given for His glory!

C. Let me give you an example of how this works:

1. We are commanded in Ephesians 5 to be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

2. This very well-known passage of scripture tells us that we are to be influenced and controlled by the Holy Spirit like wine

influences and controls one who drinks too much of it.

3. Yet, can any of you tell us for what specific purpose we are commanded by this verse to be filled or controlled by the Spirit?

4. To know the answer, all you have to do is read the next verse:

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

5. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit when we sing praises to the Lord!

6. Do Christians sing differently when they are filled with the Spirit?

7. What kind of differences might we see and experience if we are controlled by or filled with the Spirit?

8. Singing louder? Perhaps more body language? Movement? Lifting of hands?

9. It is the Holy Spirit who wrote

Psalms 66:2

Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious.

10. You can't do that singing the same old hymns the same old way that you have sung them so many times you don't even have to think about what you are saying to the Lord as you sing them.

11. Every fruit of the Spirit is there to enable us to bring glory to our Lord!

In Conclusion:

Every time the Praise Team circles up for prayer, we ask the Lord to use us for His glory.

We ask the Lord to make us one voice all for Him; for His glory!

Every time I prepare to preach the Word I ask the Lord to give us what we need to hear from Him...for His glory.

The Holy Spirit is making you a better man, a better husband, a better dad, a better employee...for what? For Jesus' glory!

The Holy Spirit is making you a better woman, a better wife, a better mom, a better servant...for what? For Jesus' glory!

The Holy Spirit is making you a better son, a better daughter, a better friend, a better sister or brother... for what? For Jesus' glory!

The message today is don't stop short...don't quit praying just before the miracle arrives...don't give up just before the victory comes...

And don't be satisfied with what God is doing in your life until your life is bringing real glory to the One Who bought you with His own blood!

Why should you work in AWANA? For the kids? Because we need help and workers? Yes, that's good, but an even better reason is...for Jesus' glory!

Why should you come to a Home Team and obey the command of the Lord to fellowship with God's People? Because you need it? Because others need you? Yes, all true, but an even better reason is...for Jesus' glory!

Why should you tithe and give and give to Missions? The Church needs the money? Missionaries need your support? Orphans need someone to care? Yes, that's great; but an even better reason is...for Jesus' glory!

The Bible commands us, "unto Him be glory in the Church..."

What are you doing for the Lord? What are you doing...for His glory?