

## The Christian Walk - Part 2

Today we continue on the Christian Walk --- understanding what “walk” means and why it is important. Last week we talked about “Walking in Love” --- what that means and what it does not mean.

### ***Ephesians 5:1-2***

We hear a lot about a person’s walk and hopefully, we think “a lot” about our walk. The bible has a lot to say about it. As examples to others, we give people the hope that they also can learn to live a better, fuller life, in step with God and the teachings of Jesus. Self-help groups are prime examples of people learning from others how to recover from a lifestyle or habit or event that negatively impacts them.

1) Who would you call a good example of Christian faith that has impacted your life? Why?

You know the funny thing is that it is more difficult to name 5 great examples in our lives, as opposed to a handful of poor examples. The bible speaks to this in many places.

From “Grace Notes”<sup>1</sup>

The spiritual walk of believers who are out of fellowship is described in the following:

**1 Cor. 3:1-3**, “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking (**peripatew**) like mere men?”

**Phil. 3:17-19**, “Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk (**peripatew**) according to the pattern you have in us. For many walk (**peripatew**), of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.”

The way of life of an unbeliever is also described by the word walk:

**Eph. 2:1-3**, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked (**peripatew**) according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

**Col. 3:5-7**, “Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. For it is on account

of these things that the wrath of God will come, and in them you also once walked (**peripatew**), when you were living in them.”

The Greek word (**stoichew**) means to march in step; to march in rank; to walk in agreement with; to function in a system; to follow a leader from the ranks. It is used in the New Testament primarily for functioning under God’s plan and advancing in that plan to spiritual maturity.

Gal. 5:25, “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk (**stoichew**) by the Spirit.”

What’s interesting here is both sides are presented --- the before and after.

2) What behavior, attitude, mental attitude, is not a good example of what you know you should be doing?

This isn’t an indictment. It is an honest evaluation of ourselves....

3) Who do you wish you were a better example to?

The idea of Biblical Study is not to beat us down, but to build us up. Without an honest evaluation of ourselves, we cannot begin to build. We also must want to change --- to “walk” in a different direction.

4) What prevents you from changing direction?

From “Grace Notes”

**Stoichew** is used for following the rules of the new spiritual life in:

**Gal. 6:16**, “And those who will walk (**stoichew**) by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.”

**Phil. 3:16**, “however, let us keep living by that same standard (**stoichew**) to which we have attained.”

The word **poreuomai**) means to go; to proceed; to travel; to conduct oneself in a certain manner; to live; to walk. It is used for national degeneration:

**Acts 14:16**, “And in the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go **poreuomai**) their own ways;”

It is used for the carnal life pattern of the unbeliever:

**1 Pet. 4:3**, “For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued **poreuomai**) a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.”

**Jude 16-18**, “These are grumblers, finding fault, following after **poreuomai**) their own lusts; they speak arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they were saying to you,” In the last time there shall be mockers, following after **poreuomai**) their own ungodly lusts.”

See also **2 Pet. 2:10**

It is used for occupation with the person of Jesus Christ on the part of believers:

**Acts 9:31**, “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and, going on **poreuomai**) in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.”

Remember, we are talking about being examples, first, for ourselves, then for others. If you are unhappy with an attitude, behavior, action --- most likely, so will everyone else be. But this is not about being happy. It is about being healthy.

5) Who do you think you are a good example to?

### ***Philippians 3:17 and 4:8-9***

These are key verses in our walk with God.

- What are you thinking about?
- Who are you following?

Every day is a challenge to be the best we can be. Sometimes will feel we are at our worst. We may even feel that in some areas we will never be great or even good examples..... because we do not have the strength. Listen, *whatever is holding you back is no more powerful than the way you think about it.* We have to *change the way we think.* *God has the strength and that strength is available to you.* You just have to learn to access it.

<sup>1</sup>Grace Notes is a ministry of [Austin Bible Church](https://www.gracenotes.info/), Austin, TX; <https://www.gracenotes.info/>