

LET'S GO FOR A WALK! (2)

Joe Slater

Walking in the light and walking in the truth might be compared to two sides of the same coin. God's word is truth (John 17:17), and His word is a lamp to our feet & a light to our path (Psalm 119:105). God is light (1 John 1:5), and He is the God of truth (Isaiah 65:16).

The apostle John told the "elect lady" that he "rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father" (2 John 4). In view of current ideas about truth, we might ask John, "What truth are you talking about?" John explains in the next two verses. The specific command mentioned in v. 4 is identified in v. 5 as loving one another; and v. 6 concludes: "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments." So walking in the truth equates with walking according to His commandments, chief among them being love for one another.

John expressed the same delight as he wrote to Gaius. "For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 3-4). Gaius demonstrated that he was walking in the truth (i.e. obeying God's commands, especially to love each other), by providing material support to fellow-Christians who were evangelizing (see vv. 5-8).

What if John came here? Or what if brethren familiar with us could report to John about us? What would the apostle say? I believe he would rejoice over those walking in the truth, being obedient to God's commands, particularly showing love for each other.

Are you among those walking in the truth?

We Are Family

Police, responding to a domestic disturbance call in a tiny Key West Florida community, found an aunt and her niece fighting. It seems that a board game led to an accusation of stealing some money, which broke out into a fight. Her aunt had hit her in the mouth with a piece of wood, stabbed her ear with a screwdriver, and bitten two of her fingers. The niece also had gotten in a few punches of her own. The game they had been playing? The home edition of *Family Feud* [www.miamiherald.com].

God has a clear plan when it comes to the family. The home is the central institution of any society and the bedrock of any nation seeking to please God. It is designed around, according to Paul, the husband's self-sacrificial love for his wife and the wife's willing submission to her husband (Ephesian 5:22-25). Because every husband and wife are mere mortals, the devil will do his utmost to disrupt their relationship with sin. Still, by keeping their focus of loving and obeying God, our homes can be havens of healthy and happy lives.

But there is a more important design in God's establishing the family. Paul concludes his observations on the marital relationship with these words from Ephesians 5:23: "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."

In the Christian husband's role in the family Christ's greater love is reflected. Likewise, in the Christian wife's role in the family the church's love and obedience is portrayed. It is no wonder, then, that the New Testament church is portrayed as a spiritual family, the house of God [1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 4:17].

There's no way around it, we are family!

--David Bragg (via Bulletin Gold)

For A Better World, Change Yourself

As the story goes, a king set out to see all the land over which he ruled. After his journey, his feet hurt from the rocky roads on which he had traveled. Determined to do resolve the issue, he ordered that all the roads in his kingdom be covered with leather so his bare feet would not be injured as he walked. This would cost a fortune and, because so many cattle would be slaughtered for the leather, the people in his kingdom would starve. Nevertheless, the king insisted something be done.

Finally one of his servants risked upsetting the king by making this suggestion: "Instead of covering every road in the kingdom with leather, why don't you just take a small amount of leather and strap it to your feet?" Surprised at his servant's boldness, the king took some leather and fashioned some shoes for himself.

To make this world a happier, better place, don't try to change the world. Change yourself (your heart, your understanding).

Paul learned to be content in any situation. "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13).

As Christians, we should learn not to get too upset or down-and-out about the circumstances life has thrown in our way. Instead, we should learn about the strength, understanding, and peace we are offered in Christ.

You can't always change the things that happen to you, but you can change what you do with those things.

--Luke Bower (adapted) via *Old Paths*