

Walk in Christ

Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your [the] faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude [thanksgiving]. (Colossians 2:6-7)

Perhaps the most important, or at least the most inclusive, exhortation specific to our daily walk that we will investigate is to walk in Christ. Please note that this passage does not say that we should follow or walk *with Jesus* (as His disciples did) but to walk *in Him*—in our Lord Jesus Christ. Brethren, we are in Christ (members of His body) and He is in us (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27; Romans 8:1; Colossians 1:24-27). These are truths that Jesus did not tell His disciples during His earthly ministry because this relationship did not apply to them. Yes, in John 15:1-11, Jesus instructed His disciples to *abide* in Him and for them to let Jesus *abide* in them. This exhortation, however, had to do with their faith and their walk so that they would bear much fruit—they were to stand for Him and depend on Him (see also I John 2:1-29). This is different than us being in Christ—members of His body—and Christ being in us, which applies to all believers through our salvation regardless of our daily walk.

I was taught discipleship in some of the churches I attended; i.e., how to be a good disciple (follower) of Jesus as described in the books of Matthew through John, as well as in the letters of James and John. Never in Paul's letters, however, are believers referred to as disciples. The Greek word for *disciple* and *disciples (matheetees)* does not appear in Paul's letters, so Bible versions that include *disciple, disciples, or discipleship* in his letters are incorrectly translated or interpreted.

Brethren, we are not to *follow* Christ as the disciples did because He is in us. Every blessing we have as believers, beginning with our salvation, is based on the work of Christ at the cross—His death, burial, and resurrection for us (Romans 6:3-11; Colossians 3:1-3). Therefore, we are to walk in Him. Paul did, however, exhort the Corinthian believers (and us) to imitate (follow) himself as he imitated Christ (e.g., I Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:17; 4:9). He was using himself as an example of how to walk in Christ.

Let us behave properly [walk honestly] as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts. (Romans 13:13-14)

To further explain our walk in Him, Paul exhorted that we *put on* our Lord Jesus Christ. That is, we are to clothe ourselves with Christ—consider Him to be part of our being—so that our walk properly represents our new self in Christ instead of our old self through deeds of the flesh. In direct correlation with putting on Christ, Paul also exhorted the brethren to put on:

- Our new self in Christ (Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:5-10);
- A heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Colossians 3:12-13);
- Love (Colossians 3:14);
- The armor of light (Romans 13:12); and
- The full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-17; I Thessalonians 5:8).