



How To Walk Like A Christian

By

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Step 1

Good morning! We're going to look this week at another important aspect of being a **disciple** of Christ. Jesus first called His disciples to **follow Him**. That meant Peter, Andrew, James, John and the other disciples walked with Him — they literally **took steps** in the process of following Christ. That's what we're going to look at this week — the **steps** we take to follow Jesus Christ.

We know from reading the Gospels that thousands of people followed Jesus Christ during His Ministry on earth. They loved to be healed and fed. They clamored for His attention and reached out to touch His garments having seen the miraculous healing others had received by doing that. But where were those thousands when Jesus was dying on the Cross? Where were His followers? Many in the crowd had turned against Jesus when His Messages became tough to believe or reconcile into their religious traditions. Some returned home to live their lives without Christ in it. Many stood in another crowd and jeered and mocked Jesus as He carried His Cross along the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha. Even the Lord's closest disciples left him. They ran away when Jesus was arrested. Peter later denied three times that he even knew Jesus. Judas committed suicide after receiving payment for identifying Jesus to the arresting Roman soldiers. A seemingly sorry end to such a promising future.

Only a few people took the steps necessary to follow Jesus all the way to the Cross.

“Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ‘Woman, behold your son!’ Then He said to the disciple, ‘Behold your mother!’ And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.” John 19:25-27

John was that disciple Jesus loved. He ran away from Jesus hours earlier when the soldiers came to arrest the Lord. But he finally made the decision to take the steps necessary to be with his Master at what he thought was the end of a dream. John stood at the Cross, with the Lord’s mother and aunt, and Mary Magdalene — a woman who knew the Power of Christ in her life (Luke 8:2). There they were, the four of them, watching Jesus pour out His Lifeblood for the world. What did Jesus do for them as they waited? He took care of His mother’s future – “And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.” At a time when others would think only of themselves, Jesus was thinking about others. That’s what God does. He gives the most precious gifts to those who follow Him – all the way to the Cross.

So, how do we walk like a Christian? Our first step is to **believe**. The Apostle Paul said it so simply and powerfully in answering the question of a man who thought he was going to die - “So they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your

household.” (Acts 16:31) The word for “believe” is a strong word in the Greek language (*pisteuo*). It means to “be fully persuaded, trust completely, rely upon fully.” Believing in Jesus Christ has never been about just believing He existed. Thousands of people saw Jesus teach, preach, heal and work miracles. They believed in His Existence. But we know that only a small number of people were fully persuaded to trust on Him completely.

What happens to someone who “believes on the Lord Jesus Christ” and is saved? The Bible says God **forgives** them of their sins and places them into a “right standing” before Him. The New Testament uses the word **justified**. The Greek word is *dikaioo* and means “to deem to be right, to be righteous.” This is a legal term and means that a judge is involved. Who is the Judge of all men? God. He determines what is right (*dike*) and wrong (*adikos*) in His Courtroom. What God says stands. So, what does He say about the righteousness of people? “There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.” (Romans 3:10-11) The Judge of all mankind also says this about sinners: “Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.” (Romans 3:19-20) It sounds hopeless; the entire world is guilty before God. Ah, but that’s not where it ends. There’s more! Read on-

“But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.” (Romans 3:21-28)

God revealed His Righteousness “apart from the Law!” The Law and the Prophets are witnesses to the fact that the Righteousness of God comes to the human race “through faith in Jesus Christ.” All people are guilty before God – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” How can God possibly look at our sinfulness and accept us in a “right standing” before Him? We are “justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” What did Jesus do to redeem us? He died on the Cross – “whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood.”

Imagine you're in a courtroom, charged with a death penalty crime. The judge looks at you and says, "guilty," then gets up from his judicial position, takes off his robe, walks around to stand next to you, put his arm around you and says, "I'll die for you. I'll take the punishment for your crime so you can live and be free." That's what God did for us. He pronounced us guilty, then left His Throne in Heaven, took off His Kingly Robe, and died to pay the penalty for our sins. Because of what Jesus did for us, we are in a **right standing before God** by faith — "because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."

Before we can "walk like a Christian," we have to "stand like a Christian." Our simple act of faith, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, places us into a "right standing" before Almighty God. It is at that moment we become followers, disciples, of Jesus Christ — co-heirs with Christ — children of God. Once we are able to stand before God, we can then take the steps to follow Him.

Where do you stand with God? Have you placed your faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone to be saved? Read the verses above again if you haven't. It all starts with **faith** — "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6) Start there right now. Place your faith, your complete and total reliance, in Jesus. What will God do? He will forgive you and

give you the gift of eternal life. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!

If you are a believer, you have taken the first step to walk like a Christian.

Step 2

Google “Christianity” and you’ll learn that between 1.5 billion and 2.1 billion people in the world call themselves Christians. You’ll also learn that what’s known as Christianity is split into about 34,000 separate denominations. That doesn’t compute. 2 billion people would be almost 1/3 of the world’s current population. Do you think that’s true from what you’ve seen? The United States is reportedly one of the most “Christian” nations in the world with about 3/4 of the population identifying themselves as Christians. How many Christians do you meet in a week? And how about those 34,000 separate denominations that call themselves Christians? That also doesn’t compute. According to all of the Gospel accounts, Jesus intended for His followers to be “one” even as He and His Father in Heaven are “One.” How did “one” become 34,000? What’s up with that?

I think the facts speak for themselves. There are not 2 billion disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today — using Christ’s own definition of a disciple. If there were 2 billion disciples of Christ in the world, the world would have at least double that number of disciples — more like 4-5 billion Christians. 2 billion people on this planet walking like a Christian would impact at least 2 -4 billion unsaved people every day. There is no way that 3 out of 4 Americans are real disciples of Jesus Christ. If that was true, we would not have gone through the decline of morality and spirituality that has plagued this country for the last 50 years. We would be a shining example of a country with a single

heart for God. And another thing — if 2 billion people were disciples of Jesus Christ, real disciples, there would not be 34,000 denominations in the world. How can Christian disciples continue to lead separate lives when the Person they call Lord and Savior **commands** them to be “one” even as He and His Heavenly Father are “One”? Fact is the true number of Christ’s disciples around the world is much less than what we find on the Internet.

So, what is this thing called the Christian life? What does it mean to “walk like a Christian?” We saw in Monday’s study that before we can walk like a Christian, we have to **stand** like a Christian. Our standing before God is based on **faith in Christ’s finished work on the Cross**. Jesus paid it all, did it all for us. We are able to be in right standing with God (justification) because of what Jesus did by dying for our sins. First we stand, then we walk. That’s Step 1.

Step 2 is living like a Christian — what we do every day of our lives in our service to God. Christians seem to think they have a choice in this matter of whether to live for Christ or not, but they don’t. There is no choice on our part here. God already made the choice. Jesus bought us with His Blood. We belong to God.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Paul wrote these words in the context of sexual sin with a prostitute in a culture that used prostitution in the worship of pagan gods. Sex is the uniting of two human bodies physically, mentally, and spiritually. God wants His Son's disciples to have physical union in marriage only. In that context, Paul tells us that our body is the "temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you." Even as followers of pagan gods went to their temples to engage in unholy sex with temple prostitutes, Christians need to understand the intimate relationship they have with the Holy Spirit of God. He lives in us and we should not be united with anyone outside His Will for our lives.

Paul goes on to say that we are not our own and that we were bought at a price. What was that price? The sacrificial blood death of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. There is no greater price God could have paid to buy us. We are that valuable to Him. God loves us, bought us, owns us. We are His servants — His slaves.

Slaves? We're not slaves to God. Oh no? Then what does this mean?

"But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as* slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness *leading to more* lawlessness, so now present your members *as*

slaves of righteousness for holiness.” Romans 6:17-19

Some translations use the word “servant” for “slave,” but that doesn’t give us the impact of the Greek word *doulos*. It means “one in bondage, one who is in a permanent relation of servitude to another, whose will is consumed in the will of the other.” This was not a free person who hired on as a servant in a household and could come and go as they pleased. This person was a slave. Paul says we are “slaves of righteousness for holiness!” Remember that right-standing we have before God? That’s the righteousness for holiness Paul wrote about. We are “slaves” of that right-standing before the Lord. Jesus paid the price for us and we belong to Him; we are His slaves.

Being a slave to Christ is not a bad thing. In fact, it’s very good. Paul reminds us that we **were** slaves to sin – slaves of uncleanness – slaves of lawlessness. **Now** we are now slaves of righteousness. I’ll make that trade any day of the week! Christians definitely get the better side of that deal. Look at what happens to slaves of righteousness versus slaves of sin.

“For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things *is* death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.” Romans 6:20-22

The end of slavery to sin is **death**. The end of slavery to God is

everlasting **life**. Nice exchange wouldn't you say?

Once we understand that God owns us, that we are slaves of God, living the Christian life becomes simple. God says it – we do it. That's discipleship in a nutshell. What is it that God wants us to do? Paul gives it to us straight.

“Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord *is* the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects *this* does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

God's will for us is our **sanctification**. Big word — what does it mean? The Greek is *hagiasmos*, which means “set apart for holy service.” People in Thessalonica and other parts of the Gentile world would have quickly understood Paul's use of the word. Something that was “sanctified” had been set apart for usage in the pagan temples and was dedicated to the “needs” of the gods (as if pieces of

wood and stone could have needs). Jews would also understand the word because of things set apart for sacred service to God in the Hebrew Temple.

There you have it – God’s will for our lives. What is that holy service?

- abstain from sexual immorality
- that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust
- that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter

Why is this important to God? God did not call us to uncleanness, but to holiness. A disciple of Christ is one who follows Christ closely, learns from Him and does what He says. If we’re following Christ, He won’t call us to uncleanness. He will call us to live holy lives pleasing to Him. That’s what we do every day until He calls us home.

Step 3

Something a little different in this chapter – a survey you can print out and keep for yourself. You may find it helpful in the future.

The Final Step in Walking Like a Christian

What do you want most in life? Love? Fame? Fortune? Health? Children? Long life? How about Heaven? If you're a Christian, you're going to Heaven! The third and final step to walking like a Christian is **glorification**.

The concept of “glorification” comes from the Hebrew word *kabed* and the Greek word *doxazo*. First, the Hebrew:

“Hear the word of the LORD, You who tremble at His word:’ Your brethren who hated you, Who cast you out for My name’s sake, said, ‘Let the LORD be glorified, That we may see your joy.’ But they shall be ashamed.” Isaiah 66:5

The word *kabed* (*kabod*) means “heavy, weight.” The word was used in the Old Testament to signify anything that gave the weight of **honor and respect** to a person, place or nation. It carries the idea of being “worthy.”

Another Hebrew word translated “glorified” in some translations is *ga’ah*. It means “exalted, majestic, excellent.” Moses used the word in the Book of Exodus:

“Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the LORD, and spoke, saying: ‘I will sing to the LORD, For He has triumphed gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!’ Exodus 15:1

The Greek word *doxazo* comes from *doxa*, which means “to suppose” and carries the idea of a favorable opinion. *Doxazo* means “to glorify, praise, give honor.” It was understood as magnifying, extolling, praising, honoring, and glorifying someone. The crowds that watched Jesus heal people “glorified” God for what they saw.

“For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ And he arose and departed to his house. Now when the multitudes saw it, they marveled and glorified God, who had given such power to men.” Matthew 9:5-8

“Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them. So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing;

and they glorified the God of Israel.” Matthew 15:30-31

“So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, ‘A great prophet has risen up among us’; and, ‘God has visited His people.’ And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.” Luke 7:15-17

Even though the crowds “glorified” Jesus, He had not yet been “glorified” — “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:38-39) How could Jesus be glorified, but not be **glorified**?

The word can be used in different contexts for different purposes. People glorified God because of the Glory of Jesus. John’s Gospel presents Jesus Christ as having a special Glory from God that was unlike the glory of any other — “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) Christ’s miracles were manifestations of His Glory — “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” (John 2:11) After His Death and Resurrection, Jesus taught the disciples from the Old Testament about the Glory He would enter — “Then He said to them, ‘O foolish

ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?’ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” (Luke 24:25-27) Jesus was “glorified” in the sense of the meaning in John 7:39 at His Resurrection from the grave. He finished the Work God the Father had sent Him to do. Jesus had paid the penalty for people’s sins and conquered death. One of the first things Jesus did with His disciples was to Breathe the Holy Spirit into them on the evening of the day He rose from the dead.

What Jesus did by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead opened the way for every Christian to be glorified. Paul wrote the Romans about the **glory** that is to come for every believer — “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (Romans 8:29-30) That word, glorified (*edoxasen*), is in the active voice-indicative mood-aorist tense, which means Someone did this to us at a past time. We have already been **glorified!** God did it all for us — He foreknew us, predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us. We saw earlier this week what it means that God **justified** us (placed us in a right standing with God), but what does it mean that we have been **glorified?**

The foundation of our “glorification” is God’s opinion of us; He thinks highly of us. We have “weight” and “value” with Him. Why? Because of the value He places in His Son, Jesus. Look at the verses that follow immediately after our being justified and glorified. Look at what Paul says about our future with God.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: ‘For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.’ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:31-39

That is glory! Nothing can separate us from the Love of Christ — including death. Our death is glorification, not separation.

“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?’ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

I get goose bumps when I read that portion of Scripture. The hair on the back of my neck stands up. That is our future! That is our glorification! Paul wrote that where we are living and serving God now, Planet Earth, is not the end for us. We are waiting for Jesus to take us to Heaven — “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21)

Heaven is our real home. Earth is where we were born physically and spiritually, but Earth is not our home. We have much work to do here —“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10) – but when that work is done Jesus will take us to

Heaven to be with Him forever and ever.

“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18

Those words are certainly a great comfort to Christians. It is our dream come true to be in the Presence of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. To be with Him – see Him, hear Him, touch Him, walk with Him – is deep in our spiritual DNA. Our joy will be complete when we hear the Trumpet and Shout and we rise up to be with Him forever.

The “You’re In Heaven!” Survey

This is the part of the book that’s hands-on for you. Print it out, fill it out, and pull it out anytime you want to remember what your life will be like in Heaven, in your own words.

I want you think for a moment about what you will look like in Heaven. Close your eyes if you need to, but see yourself in Heaven.

What do you look like?

What color is your hair?

What color are your eyes?

How big is the smile on your face?

Are you young or old?

Are you tall or short?

What do your hands look like?

How does it feel to clap your hands in Heaven?

What does your voice sound like?

Do you like to sing in Heaven?

What songs are your favorites?

What are you wearing?

Do you wear the same clothes all the time or do you have different clothes?

Do you like them?

Do you wear shoes in Heaven?

Is your health better in Heaven than it was on Earth?

Do you feel any aches or pains?

Are you glad to be in Heaven?

Do you miss Earth?

What does the air of Heaven smell like?

What sounds do you hear around you?

Do you hear voices?

How about music?

Start walking through Heaven. What do you see?

Is it big or small?

What are the streets made of?

Do you see any buildings? What are they?

Do you see any parks? What can you do there?

Who do you see walking with you on the streets of Heaven?

Do you see anyone you know?

Are they friendly to you?

How about the people you don't know?

Is it easy to talk to them?

Who are the first 10 people from the Bible you met in Heaven?

What did they say to you?

What did you say to them?

How many times have you talked with Jesus since you arrived in Heaven?

What did He say to you?

What did you say to Him?

What does Jesus look like in Heaven?

Do you enjoy living where Jesus lives?

What do angels look like?

What do their voices sound like?

How do they treat you and other believers?

Do you feel safe walking in Heaven?

What is there to eat and drink in Heaven?

How does it compare to what you had on Earth?

Where do you live in Heaven?

What kind of a house do you live in?

Who are your neighbors?

Are they nice people?

Have you talked with any of your family and friends from Earth who are also in Heaven?

Do they like living in Heaven?

Have you made any new friends since you've been in Heaven?

Who are they?

Do you enjoy being with your friends?

What do you and your friends like to do best in Heaven?

Are you having a good time?

Do you have work to do in Heaven?

What do you do?

Do you like your work?

What is the best thing you get to do in Heaven?

Do you wish more of your family and friends on Earth had made the decision to accept God's gift to live with Him in Heaven?

What would you say to them if you could tell them what Heaven is like?

The reason I share this **Personal Survey of Heaven** with you is to help you look at Heaven as a real place. If you're a Christian, Heaven is your eternal home. It is real now and will be real when you get there. I for one am excited about going to Heaven. It is real to me, very real. If you and I don't get a chance to meet here on Earth, please look me up in Heaven. We'll have a lot to talk about. And think about people in your life now who need to know that Heaven is a real place. They have some important decisions to make.

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