

Walking as Jesus Walked

Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

(1 John 2:4-6 ESV)

This presents a stark contrast between two clear alternatives.

Let me deal with 'ought' and 'should'.....

There are some things I should do in order to avoid a penalty.

There are some things I should want to do in order to avoid broken relationships.

John's letter is set in the context of relationship,

“these are things we have heard, seen, touched” -
I John 1:1

“our fellowship is with the Father and his son,
Jesus” I John 1:3

“let what you heard from the beginning abide in
you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the
Father” I John 2:24

You can't operate a relationship by a set of rules, it is from the heart.

Therefore the 'ought' is not 'thou shalt' but 'because of relationship, this is what I want to do'

Walking as Jesus walked is not doing what Jesus did.

Walking and living as Jesus lived, way of life, heart attitude, relationship.

Walking as Jesus walked is us having fellowship and oneness with the Father, as Jesus did.

Galations 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Jesus lived his life in perfect and complete love, in perfect and complete joy, in perfect and complete peace.....

patience

kindness

goodness

faithfulness

gentleness

and self-control

Against these there is no law

But the fruit of the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its various expressions. This love is revealed through:

Joy that overflows

Peace that subdues

Patience that endures

Kindness on display

A life full of virtue

Faith that prevails

Gentleness of heart and

Strength of spirit

Never set the law above these qualities, for they are meant to be limitless.

Galatians 5:22-23 (The Passion Translation)

As we walk as Jesus walked we will become like him:

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
(Romans 8:29 ESV)

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
(2 Cor 3:18 ESV)

Walking in the light

1 John 1:5-9

Light and dark can't live together

Fellowship with Father and with one another

Overwhelming desire for relationship causes us
to walk away from sin

We see what we need and walk towards it

A choice of lovers

I John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world - the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions - is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides for ever.

Walking as Jesus walked causes a shift away from the ways of the world to the ways of his heart.

Anointing and authority of sons

1 John 2:27

But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie - just as it has taught you, abide in him.

There is something in our hearts which reveals our true identity. Heb 2:10 'many sons being brought to glory'. When David anointed King the Holy Spirit rushed on him.

A seed that grows

1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

We are his children NOW. But there is still more, much more to be revealed in us.

Love is the hallmark of our lives

1 John 4:7-8, 16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love... So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

We can know this love, we can grow in love, we can rely on love. Why? because it has become a part of us.

Walking as Jesus walked is not a list of do's and don'ts, it's not a formula.

It is a life transformed by the Father's love and our only response is one of worship, devotion and dedication to him.