
a *Grace Notes* course

Doctrines of the Christian Faith

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Doctrine 208

Purity

Sexual Health in the Bible

The Christian Walk

Grace Notes

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Doctrines of the Christian Faith
Doctrine 200, Lesson 8

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Purity

The apostle Paul told Timothy, “Keep yourself pure...”. Good advice for a young man in the ministry. And when you look at all of the passages in the Bible that have something to do with personal purity, you realize that this Christian characteristic has a prominent place in God’s plan for the Christian believer.

Jesus Christ exalts purity to the realm of the spirit, a type of purity that is far greater than the ritual purity of ceremonial cleansing seen in Jewish and other religions. This paper is aimed at showing you what Christian purity is (and is not) and how you can grow to have this purity.

The New Testament Greek word for purity is (**katharos**). It is found in several New Testament passage, notably in Titus 1:15, “Unto the pure all things are pure...” **katharos** is the usual Greek word for purity and was used for several types of purity in the Greek world:

- Ceremonial purity of a physical object, such as a vessel in a temple
- Ceremonial purity of a temple worshipper
- Purity in the spiritual nature of a person

In the ancient world, ceremonial cleansing would have been by some ritual. In the New Testament, there is a deeper meaning: purity refers to the result of cleansing of the soul by God. In this context, purity is a characteristic of a believer in fellowship who has experienced the “cleansing from all unrighteousness” promised in 1 John 1:9 to the one who confesses sin to God.

Titus 1:15, Unto the pure all things are pure...

Reading this phrase, a cynical person may draw the wrong conclusion, namely that a totally pure person can touch anything or think about anything and remain pure as the driven snow. But this thinking involves lifting this phrase out of the whole context of the Bible in order to make it meaningless and false.

This does *not* mean, “All things are pure in the judgment of the pure.”

It’s true that a pure-minded man will not usually put evil constructions or interpretations on things. But to say that something is pure because he

judges it to be so, or because he cannot be defiled, is false. The context of Titus 1 makes it clear that the apostle Paul is referring to matters of Judaistic practice, ceremonial purifications, among other things, that have been misconstrued by false teachers.

Read the following passage from Luke 11:37-44.

And as he spoke, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.

And the Lord said unto him, Now do you Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

You fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?

But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

But woe unto you, Pharisees! for you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Woe unto you, Pharisees! for you love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

Christ exalts purity to the realm of the spirit, which automatically does away with ceremonial purity. A pure mind cannot be contaminated by physical contact; and the purest minds will have no relish in seeking defilement.

The following passage in 1 Timothy 1:4-7 talks about love out of a pure heart, the fruit of the Holy Spirit. This is not a ritual love, nor is it a love gained by striving for it. Here “good conscience” means “cleansed” or “in fellowship”.

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

Now the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

Problems of impurity in life are attacked in the area of the mind. Timothy was commanded to “flee also youthful lusts...”. But he was told in the same verse how to do this, to “follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Tim. 2:22).

How often only the first part of the above verse is quoted, so that the believer never learns how to have victory over areas of weakness. Lust is desire - and desire is a mental attitude. So to “flee lusts” is to nip the sin problem in the bud, while it is still only in the mind. Confess, isolate, and forget the sin. Then, enjoy one more measure of victory.

1 Timothy 6:9-11

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

But you O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

1 Peter 1:18-23

Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Seeing you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that you love one another with a pure heart fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which lives and abides for ever.

Salvation is not by ceremony, but by the sacrifice of Christ. Morality is not by ceremony, but by the purification of the soul through the Word of God.

What is Christ’s purpose for the Church? “...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.” (Eph. 5:25,26)

Purity is brought into the Christian’s life and maintained through (1) Confession of sins which maintains fellowship with God and (2) edification, which is the basis for growth in all areas, including having victory over sin.

Sexual Health in the Bible

God the Father intends that sexual activity be conducted only between husband and wife. The Bible takes a categorical and unequivocal stand against non-marital sex and condemns any other sexual practice.

Exodus 20:14, “You shall not commit adultery.”

Hebrews 13:4, “Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.”

Judges 16:6, So Delilah said to Samson, "Please tell me where your great strength is and how you may be bound to afflict you."

Proverbs 6:32, The one who commits adultery is lacking sense; he who would destroy himself does it.

God the Father's Care For Us

A child profits by obeying his parents. A child does not understand many of life's problems. A child does not anticipate dangers. A child is not aware of the potential fallout from his actions.

Parents have experience and wisdom - some gained the hard way, through making painful mistakes or by committing sins and recovering. But human parents are sometimes too lax or too strict with children - and certainly parents do not know everything.

God the Father does know everything about us, and He has an attitude of perfect love toward us - so He always has our best interests in mind. He is neither too lax nor too strict. We should trust Him and obey Him implicitly.

Human society is complex, made up of people who are complex. Each person has a soul made up of a mental and emotional structure containing areas of strength and weakness and possessing trends toward morality or licentiousness, all coupled with a physical nature that is hard to understand or control.

Society is a matrix of individual complex souls. Each individual is unique, but there is an underlying common structure in the souls of all people.

God not only knows everything about us, He also knows all about the society we live in. He has established in the Bible a perfectly balanced set of societal standards based on His omniscience and His plan of grace.

God loves our nation and wants the best for it (as He does for all nations). His laws concerning marriage, divorce, and sexual activity are designed to help families and nations prosper, have peace, and function as a lighthouse of the gospel.

Sexual promiscuity brings harm to everyone concerned - the participants, their families, the community, and the nation. In the Old Testament times, both murder and adultery were punishable by death, because both were crimes that devastated the community and the nation, shown by many examples, including the well-known case of David and Bathsheba.

God's Plan for Glorifying Christ

The most important part of God's plan is that the Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in the world, so that every human being will have an opportunity to make a decision to accept Christ as Savior.

Therefore, when we say that Christ is glorified

during the Church Age, we are saying that Christ is the celebrated Person of the Church Age, the focus of attention.

For this reason, one of the Holy Spirit's main functions during the Church Age is to glorify Christ and to make Him known to all people.

John 16:13,14, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.

It is also the responsibility of Christians to glorify Christ by their own lives; and the Holy Spirit provides the power for us to be able to do that. The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and this glorification occurs on the inside of the believer.

1 Cor. 6:19,20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

One of the most important and effective ways to glorify Christ is in Christian marriage. Marriage is a picture of the relationship of the Lord Jesus Christ to His Bride, the Church, the Body of Christ, including all Christians. Christ loves Christians and provides everything for them. It is imperative that believers and non-Christians be able to have a clear picture of this relationship, and Christian marriage is one of the clearest illustrations of God's Plan on view during the Church Age.

Christian marriage, properly constituted and upheld, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ and is a powerful witness of the gospel to an unbelieving world. The following Bible passages are very important to understanding this concept.

Eph. 5:22-33, Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself {being} the Savior of the body.

But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives {ought to be} to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself;

for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also {does} the church,

because we are members of His body.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh\

This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.

Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and {let} the wife {see to it} that she respect her husband.

Anything that sullies this godly illustration, anything that clouds the issue for those might be saved, is wrong and is strongly condemned in the Bible.

Read these additional Bible examples of marriage as a figure of Christ's Union with the Church.

Isa. 54:4 -6 "Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; Neither feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more.

"For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth.

"For the Lord has called you, Like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one's youth when she is rejected," Says your God.

Isa. 62:1-5, For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, And for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, Until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, And her salvation like a torch that is burning.

And the nations will see your righteousness, And all kings your glory; And you will be called by a new name, Which the mouth of the Lord will designate.

You will also be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, And a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

It will no longer be said to you, "Forsaken," Nor to your land will it any longer be said, "Desolate"; But you will be called, "My delight is in her," And your land, "Married"; For the Lord delights in you, And to Him your land will be married.

For as a young man marries a virgin, So your sons will marry you; And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So your God will rejoice over you.

Hos. 2:18-23, "In that day I will also make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, The birds of the sky, And the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, And will make them lie down in safety.

"And I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion,

And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord.

"And it will come about in that day that I will respond," declares the Lord. I will respond to the heavens, and they will respond to the earth,

And the earth will respond to the grain, to the new wine, and to the oil, And they will respond to Jezreel.

"And I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'Thou art my God!'"

Rev. 19:6-9, And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many

waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Definitions

In the Bible the word **adultery** refers to sexual relations by a married person with someone other than a spouse. The word **fornication** refers to other sexual relations between unmarried people and to sexual relations in the heathen temples in which the sex act was made a form of religion. In this article the word **promiscuity** refers to both adultery and fornication as well as homosexual activity.

Normal adultery is sex outside of marriage with a person of the opposite sex. *Abnormal* adultery refers to all other non-marital sexual activity, including incest, homosexuality, bestiality, molestation of children.

Sex outside of marriage is a meaningless physical encounter. And abuse of sex can mean maladjustment to God, to the human race, and many other maladjustments in life.

Sex was designed by God for the propagation of the human race and to be an expression of love inside a marriage, between husband and wife.

As a detail of married life, sex provides only momentary happiness or pleasure. Sex is not love. It is a ritual which expresses love and the coalescence of the soul and body. Sex is an expression of happiness, not a source of happiness.

Three types of adultery are mentioned in the Bible - physical adultery, mental adultery, and spiritual adultery.

Physical adultery

Ex. 20:14, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Mental adultery

Matt. 5:27,28, "You have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

Spiritual adultery

James 4:4, "You adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Hos. 4:12-15, My people consult their wooden idol, and their diviner's wand informs them; For a spirit of harlotry has led them astray, And they have played the harlot, departing from their God.

They offer sacrifices on the tops of the mountains And burn incense on the hills, Under oak, poplar, and terebinth, Because their shade is pleasant. Therefore your daughters play the harlot, And your brides commit adultery.

I will not punish your daughters when they play the harlot Or your brides when they commit adultery, For the men themselves go apart with harlots And offer sacrifices with temple prostitutes; So the people without understanding are ruined.

Though you, Israel, play the harlot, Do not let Judah become guilty; Also do not go to Gilgal, Or go up to Beth-aven, And take the oath: "As the Lord lives!"

Judges 2:17, And yet they did not listen to their judges, for they played the harlot after other gods and bowed themselves down to them. They turned aside quickly from the way in which their fathers had walked in obeying the commandments of the Lord; they did not do as their fathers.

Ephesians 4:17-19 is a strong description of people who have ignored God entirely in their lives and have given themselves over to sexual sins and other forms of unclean living. The Apostle Paul warns Christians against falling into the same patterns of living. The heathen, beginning with spiritual adultery (unfaithfulness to

God), develops a life totally devoted to sinful behavior. The result is frustration and a frantic scramble for sexual experience and a search for happiness in misuse of these details of life.

Prohibitions of Promiscuity

Deut 5:18, You shall not commit adultery.

1 Cor. 6:18-20 Flee immorality. Every {other} sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Thess. 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality;

Fornication is forbidden in 1 Cor 6:18 (above). Fornication is sex between two people who are not married. These verses point out that the Lord expects you to pick yourself up and run away from the opportunity for fornication.

Even mental adultery is prohibited.

Matt. 5:27,28 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery,

but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Man gets an image in his mind and his emotion takes over causing mental adultery. The remedy is to make sure these temptations do not take root, or if they do, to recognize the sin, confess it, and apply doctrine to the situation.

In actual physical adultery, the soul makes a decision and the body follows through. In mental adultery, only the volition or the soul is involved.

Incest is prohibited: Lev 18:6-17, 20:14; Deut 27:20,22; 1 Cor 5:1-7.

Homosexuality is prohibited:

Lev. 18:22 You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.

Lev. 20:13 If a man lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have

committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.

Rom. 1:26,27 For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural,

and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Bestiality is forbidden: Lev 18:23, 20:15.

Animal and man were both killed in punishment. Deut 27:21.

Prostitution is forbidden: Lev 19:29; Deut 23:17.

Rape is forbidden and punishable by death: Deut 22:25-27.

Additional Relevant Scriptures

Prov. 5:1-6; Prov. 6:23-35; Job 24:14-16; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; Prov. 7:10-23; 1 Chron. 5:25,26; Eze. 23:35-37; Eze. 18:1-32; Prov. 6:23-35; 2 Pet. 2:9-18; 1 Cor. 6:13-20

The Christian Walk

Introduction

Besides the examples of physical walking in the Bible, there are many references to two types of spiritual walking:

- Walking which is advancing in the Christian life through the use of divine power, and
- Walking in Evil (controlled by the sin nature and using human energy), resulting in stagnation, retrogression, or backsliding.

So, in walking, a Christian is either advancing or retreating. To advance, a believer must walk according to God's plan, stay in fellowship, and grow in Christ. To retreat in the spiritual life is to reside in Satan's cosmic system (Evil).

Therefore, "walking" denotes many functions, both pro and con, in the spiritual life.

New Testament Words for Walking.

The Greek word (**peripatew**) means to walk or to walk around. It is used for literal walking in Matt. 4:18. But **peripatew** is used primarily for the function of the plan of God in the Church Age in such passages as:

Rom. 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk (**peripatew**) in newness of life.

Gal. 5:16,17 But I say, walk (**peripatew**) by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Eph. 4:1,2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk (**peripatew**) in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing forbearance to one another in love,

Eph. 5:1,2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk (**peripatew**) in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

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 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.

stoichew is used for the pattern of salvation by faith in Christ (walking by faith).

Rom. 4:11,12 and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be reckoned to them, and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps (**stoichew**) of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

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."

2 Pet. 2:10 and 3:18

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.

The Greek (**anastrephw**) originally meant in the Attic Greek "to upset; to overrun; to associate." Its figurative meaning was "to behave" or "to function in terms of human conduct." It was also used for the practice of principles.

In the Bible, **anastrephw** is used for the conduct and the lifestyle of the unbeliever in Eph 2:3.

It is used for motivation for Christian integrity.

Heb. 13:18 Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a good conscience, desiring to conduct (**anastrephw**) ourselves honorably in all things.

It is used for the operation of the sin nature.

Eph. 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside (**anastrephw**) the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,

It is used for life and conduct in Christian way of life.

2 Pet. 3:11,12 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct (**anastrephw**) and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

The Greek word (**orthopedew**) means "to walk straight." It is used for legalistic modus operandi and resultant hypocrisy in Gal 2:14; in other words, they were not walking straight.

Walking in the Light vs Walking in Darkness

"Walking in the light" is a term used specifically for the believer's execution of God's will, plan and purpose for the Church Age. The concept of walking in the light is found in Eph 5:8, "You were once in darkness [spiritual death], but now you are light in the Lord. Begin walking (**peripatew**) as children of light."

This command is a reference to experiential sanctification. Walking in the light is synonymous for the Christian way of life.

Just as walking in the darkness is incompatible with walking in light, so Christian degeneracy is incompatible with the plan of God.

Walking in the light is compatible with the status of being in the light. Walking in darkness is not compatible with the status of being in the light. A Christian walking in darkness is degenerate, whether moral, immoral, or both.

The command to walk in the light means that God intends for a Christian to be filled with the Spirit and to learn the Word of God under the filling of the Spirit.

The Lord Jesus is our precedent for walking in the light:

1 John 2:6 "The person who says he abides in Him, he himself ought to keep walking in the same manner as He walked."

Our example for the Christian walk is the Lord Jesus Christ during the His life on earth, not Old Testament believers.

Walking as children of light means we are to become spiritually mature believers.

The power for walking comes from using the power of the Holy Spirit on the inside, Gal 5:16, "walk by means of the Spirit." This is a command to remain in fellowship with God the Holy Spirit. Being in fellowship is the only way we can execute God's plan.

Walking describes the purpose of living in the operational will of God to glorify God in the Church Age.

We are commanded in 1 Thess. 2:12, "so that you may walk in a manner worthy of God who elected you into His kingdom and glory." This is a general reference to the fulfillment of the plan of God.

If we are going to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord after we believe in Christ, then we must be filled with the Spirit, and continually expose ourselves to the teaching of the Word of God.

If we do all of this, then we fulfill 1 John 1:7, "If we keep walking in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, cleanses us from all sin."

The challenge of walking in the light is found in Rom. 6:4, "Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism, in order that as Christ has been raised from the dead, so that we too might walk in newness of life."

- Walking in newness of life means we walk in the light of the Word of God.
- We walk in newness of life because we are in union with Christ.
- Walking in newness of life means using all of the assets God has provided for us: the availability of divine power; the indwelling of the Trinity; our portfolio of spiritual blessings; our universal priesthood and ambassadorship, etc.

The faith-rest principle is also a mandate for walking. Faith-rest exercise provides the poise of the Christian life. With faith-rest you control your own life under God's plan for your life.

2 Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Col. 2:6 As you have received Christ Jesus to yourselves, so keep walking by means of Him.

The concept of walking is used for the function of problem solving in the Christian way of life.

Eph. 5:1,2 Become imitators of your God as beloved posterity, and begin walking in the sphere of love...

Learning and using the problem solving devices moves you along in executing the plan of God, which is walking in the light.

Eph. 4:1,2 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, encourage you to walk in a manner worthy of your station in life [royal family of God] into which you have been called with all humility and true sensitivity with perseverance, tolerate one another by means of love.

as unwise, but as wise.

All of these commands to keep walking are commands to keep learning doctrine, to keep advancing spiritually in the Christian way of life.

Walking in Darkness is Related to Satan's Strategy of Evil

Walking is used as a warning against the cosmic system. John 8:12 is the prophecy of this.

Living in Satan's system is called walking.

Phil. 3:18,19 For many [believers] keep walking, concerning whom I have often told you, even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ. Whose termination is destruction, whose God is their emotions, whose fame comes by means of dishonor, who keep on thinking about earthly things.

1 John 1:6 If we contend that we have fellowship with Him and keep walking in darkness, we lie and do not live the truth.

1 Cor. 3:3 For you are still carnal, since there is jealousy and strife. And you keep walking in accordance with men.

Life in the cosmic system (Evil) is called walking in darkness.

John 11:9,10 Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.

Eph. 4:17-19

Walking is Related to Executing God's Plan.

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared in advance that we should be walking by means of them.

- At salvation we became His creation, a new spiritual species.
- We are to walk by means of the things prepared by God for us in eternity past, such as the problem solving devices. The result is divine good: gold, silver, precious stones

Col. 1:9,10

This is the point at which you fulfill all the commands for walking.

Walking is used for a mandate to advance to the objective of spiritual maturity.

1 Thess. 4:1

More References to Walking

Walking by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit:

Rom. 8:1-4 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus

has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Basic Christian living: we received Christ by faith, so now we walk by faith.

2 Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Col. 2:6 As you have received Christ Jesus to yourselves, so keep walking in Him.

Building up momentum in spiritual things:

3 John 4 I was very pleased because I discovered that some of your children keep walking by means of doctrine even as we have received a mandate from the Father.

Eph. 5:15-18; Col. 1:9,10.

Walking related to the application of doctrine:

Col. 4:5,6 Keep walking in wisdom toward outsiders; keep purchasing the time. Your doctrine must always be applied in grace, having been seasoned with salt, so that you should know how to respond to every person.

Eph 5:1-2

Testing as part of the Christian walk:

Rom. 13:13,14; Eph. 4:17; Phil. 3:18,19