

WALK NOT AS THE OTHER GENTILES WALK

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First of all, I had texted Brother Govender about something and he sent me back a note regarding his treatment that was going to be this past Monday or Tuesday. Well, I think for them it would have been Tuesday. Basically the oncologist was very happy with the markers and said it would be best to wait another week. That's very good news. And Lord willing, this will be his last treatment.

So let's just keep remembering our Brother, that the Lord would complete His work. Amen. Praise the Lord.

Before we get started tonight, I imagine a lot of us have seen the news of what has happened in Minneapolis. It's a sad thing to see that we're living in a world where people just want to live however they want. They don't want any discipline. A lot of them have not really had discipline growing up. They don't know what respect is, and they have no regard for authority.

I'm not here to say that what the law enforcement officer did was right or not. I haven't gone through the training that they go through. And we know there are people who will be studying that. But I know out of probably the last 15 cases similar to this that I've seen, if people would just respect the police and do what they ask, these tragedies wouldn't happen.

I know some people will say: well, you're giving the green light to the police. *I am not.* They have to do what is right as well. But people need to learn a little bit about respect and authority.

Sometimes people say: well, you've never been in a situation like that. *You don't know* the situations I've been in. I've said before: I've been treated wrong many times by police.

I'll just give one little example tonight. When I was about 21~22 years old, for the summer I was selling books door-to-door. In other words, I would knock on doors and when people answered, I would try to sell them books. It was perfectly legal.

I knocked on one man's door and he said: sure, come on in. Then he said: just a minute, I have to go get something. He was a policeman and when he came back, he had his belt with the gun in it. He didn't have it on, he just had the belt in his hand, and he threw a pair of handcuffs at me. He said: start putting these on. I'm placing you under arrest.

There is so much wrong with that. First of all, he wasn't even on duty! And what I was doing was completely legal. But he took me to the police station and he put me in a holding cell.

I'm not going to go into too much detail but this was in southern Alabama. And basically, if I had not gotten out within about an hour, they would have taken me to the county jail for the weekend. Thankfully, there was another person in the same cell who had called a bondswoman, and she got me out as well.

When that happened, I didn't fight the policeman. I mean, he had a gun. I didn't try to run away. Was I in agreement with what he was doing? *Not at all*. Was it right? *Not at all*. I can tell you all kinds of things that were wrong with that. But he was *a policeman*. Society gave him that job. And there's a way to deal with those situations *later*.

I hope and pray that we never feel we have to fight back in a situation like that. I will say: obey, *obey them*. And after we're in jail [laugh] then we can get a lawyer and we can fight *the right way*.

But people are just losing their minds tonight: *complete lawlessness*. It's sad because we see that tensions are building here in the United States. But at the end of the day, we know the Lord will work things out.

So I want to go ahead and get to the message tonight. Let's go to Romans chapter 6.

I forgot to mention something about the situation I was in. During all of it, I was *respectful* to the man. I didn't call him names. I didn't verbally escalate the situation. Again, was I happy? No, I wasn't.

On top of that – this might not seem like that big of a deal now because we all have cell phones – but I actually had a little handheld computer. I just thought that was the coolest thing. I had paid a lot of money for it. It was over \$100. That was back in 1991. The cops stole that. I had a bag and they took the bag from me. And when I got out of the cell, they gave me back the bag but the computer was gone.

I said: there was a computer in here. They said: oh no, there was nothing in there. What could I do? But *I was still respectful*. I could've started yelling at them and saying all kinds of things.

Now, did I feel good? *No*.

We need to have some understanding of *respect* and *what authority is*. It's *not* that we agree with the person, but *we respect the position of authority* that they are in.

Anyway, let's start here in Romans chapter 6.

The last time we had Wednesday night service, I preached a message titled: Put on the New Man. I hadn't really finished it and I know that our last message of the year was also along this line. So I want to go ahead and finish the message tonight.

Starting in verse 5. This is, of course, speaking of Jesus Christ. It says:

Romans 6:5

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Paul is speaking here of us being *planted in the likeness of his death*.

Well, we know that *physically we're not dead*. There have been Christians down through time who have had to give their life. But whether we give our physical life or not, *we are dead in Christ*. [Romans 6:11]

How are we dead? We have to *put off the old man*. [Colossians 3:9] What is *the old man*? It's all of these *carnal ideas, carnal attitudes, and carnal way of thinking*.

Sometimes we may not even realize that *that's our carnality*. But as we read the Word, as we hear the Word of God preached, and as we see the examples God has placed before us, we can begin to see: this is something, *it's carnality*. I need to *get rid of that*, I need to *crucify that*.

He says: *if we do that*,

Romans 6:5

we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.

Praise the Lord.

So as we *crucify the flesh* [Galatians 5:24] *the spiritual man* that had been dead can now begin to *show himself and come to life*.

And that's the way we want to walk. We want to *put on the new man* [Colossians 3:10] and *live a godly Christian life* in this world where we've been placed.

Now, when we're here in the assembly, it's very easy to say: we have to live a godly life. But tomorrow, when we're out there among so many who are *not converted*, then it's a different picture. Because many times, they expect us to live and act just like they do.

The fact is: that may be *their expectation*, but we have to know: what is the decision that we have made? Are we living for the Lord, or are we *not* living for the Lord? And if we are, then it *doesn't* matter what they think we should do. It *doesn't* matter if we offend them.

Of course, we *don't want* to offend them. Sometimes we have to pray: Lord, there's a situation. I don't know what to do in this situation.

We know that Paul said: *as much as is possible, as much as lies within you*, in other words: *whatever your ability is, be at peace with all men*. [Romans 12:18]

We are *not* to be – this kind of goes with what I was just talking about – we are *not* to be out there fighting against everything: well, I don't like *this*, I don't like *that*. But at the same time, there is a line. We *don't* pursue peace to the point of sacrificing what is right. Praise the Lord.

So he says here:

Romans 6:6

Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him,

Praise the Lord.

Romans 6:6

that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Again, when we look at the world we live in, they have lots of expectations. And I don't think we have a problem with – we might say – some of the more obvious areas that the world goes into.

I think we learn very quickly that there are certain things which are *not* pleasing in the eyes of God. We probably don't go out to the bars and things like that. And that's good. We certainly *shouldn't* be there.

However, there are other things.

Sometimes at work or wherever, people may tell a joke. They want you to laugh. Well, if it's something that's actually worth laughing at, there's nothing wrong with that.

But today, I have to say: personally, when I can tell that somebody is starting to tell a joke, it's almost like turmoil inside of me. Nine times out of ten, I would prefer that they didn't even tell it because the mind of the world today, so many times it's based on something perverse or blasphemous. We don't have any business laughing at something like that.

That was just one little example but this is really *where the world wants us to engage in something* but it *runs contrary to the Word*.

We need to be a light. Praise the Lord.

So we have to know how to either avoid those situations or how to deal with them in a way that's pleasing to the Lord.

At the end of the day, we have to decide: where are we? Are we *putting off the old man and walking the spiritual walk*? Or are we just trying to have one-foot-in-the-world and one-foot-in-the-church?

I have to say: you can have one-foot-in-the-world and one-foot-in-church, but you *can't* put one-foot-in-the-world *and* please the Lord.

Romans 6:7

For he that is dead is freed from sin.

If we take somebody who's dead in the natural, they can no longer sin, right? And you know what else? If you push them or if you beat them, they don't have anything to say back to you: *they are dead*.

That's how we need to be to this carnal nature. We need the Lord to get us to the point where we are not pulled by the natural reactions that we would have.

Wrath is another one. I think last time we read a list that Paul wrote where he literally said: it's *this, this, this, and this*. [Galatians 5:19-21]

We might be good on 90% of that, but then there's *one word*, and we think: well, I'll just *overlook that one*. When that's the case, that's the one we need to be looking at because it shows our carnal man is still alive.

Romans 6:8

Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

Praise the Lord.

Sometimes it can be difficult in this world we're living in. There is so much unbelief. There are so many spirits out there. And we find ourselves in that environment. The enemy is always ready to say: don't worry, just let your guard down. Be a part of everybody else.

But at the end of the day, there is coming a reckoning. And if we live according to the Lord's will, there will be a beautiful reward. When this is all over, *we will live with him*. [Romans 6:8] Why? Because we have *already been living with Him*.

That was the testimony of Enoch: *he walked with God*. [Genesis 5:24] Praise the Lord.

If we have been drawn into this *glorious light*, then we are also going to *walk with God*. Praise the Lord. And just as *God took Enoch* – remember: that was an example for you and me – He will also, one day, *take His Church that walks with Him*.

So verse 9:

Romans 6:9

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more;

Amen.

Romans 6:9

death hath no more dominion over him.

As we have come to the Lord Jesus Christ, putting off that old man and living in the Spirit, *no longer subject to sin* – praise the Lord – *sin can never have dominion over us again*.

We will never again be the servant of sin, but now *the spiritual man can live in abundance*.

What did Jesus say? He said: *I've come that you could have life, and that you could have it in abundance*. [John 10:10]

What does that mean? It *doesn't* mean that in this natural life we're going to have all kinds of material things and stuff like that, but it's: *the spiritual man*. That's really – how can I say that? – that's really where *the true blessing is* because God has created us *spiritual beings*.

There is no better place to be than in the *center of fellowship with our Heavenly Father*. That's actually what Adam and Eve were – we can say – *put out of*. That was *the Garden of Eden*.

The Garden of Eden *wasn't* a geographical location, as if God had said: you have to go five miles that way and you can never come back. We know there *isn't* a place on the earth today where cherubims are keeping people out. [Genesis 3:24]

The Garden of Eden was *the spiritual environment*. And by the Lord Jesus Christ, praise the Lord, *that Way* has been made for us to go back. Praise the Lord. When we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, then we are back: we are *partaking* of that *Tree of Life*. Praise the Lord.

So it says here:

Romans 6:10

For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

Romans 6:11

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Praise the Lord.

And I'm *not* just talking about *sin* tonight, but it's that *carnal nature*: what the enemy would like to use either to pull us out more into the world or just to be a disruption to our spiritual walk.

Let's go now to Ephesians chapter 4.

I want to read more of this but I think we'll start – it's so hard, I want to look at every verse – we'll go ahead and start in verse 17. We might jump down to other verses in a minute.

This is actually where I get the title of the message tonight.

Ephesians 4:17

This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord,

I like how it's written in Spanish. In Spanish it says: *and I require this in the Lord*. It's not just: this is what I say. But Paul is saying: *there's really no way around this*.

Ephesians 4:17

that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk,

We are *Gentiles*, but praise the Lord: we have *the light of the gospel*. We have *the light of the Word*.

He says: *don't walk as the other Gentiles*. [Ephesians 4:17]

Many times we might look at the world, and yes that's a part of it, but even modern religion. *Jesus Christ is not coming back for everybody who says: I'm a Christian*. [Matthew 7:21]

He is *not* pleased with, I would say, the great majority of so-called Christianity today. Many of them have just wanted to *mix the carnal life* with something they think gives them a certain – how can I say this? – they fulfill a certain duty before the Lord but at the same time, they have *mixed in the world*.

I know this may seem a little extreme to us but there are preachers today who will stand in front of their congregation wearing flip-flops, shorts, and a t-shirt. That's the way they're preaching. I wouldn't dress like that in the world! But they are bringing it *into the church*.

Why do we dress the way we do? Somebody might say: well, Brother, I think you're doing it to show off, or something like that. I have to say: you haven't been listening to me if you think that. I'm *way beyond that*, and we all should be.

But again, we're coming together *for what?* To have *fellowship together with the Lord*. Amen. So it's *out of respect for the Lord Jesus Christ*.

And I will say: be careful if you get an idea that: oh, people are just doing that *to show off*.

I had an idea like that when I was 13 years old. I was in a church service like this but there were more people, maybe 30 ~ 40 people. It was a Sunday morning and everybody was dressed nicely. But I had accidentally forgotten to bring my shoes so I had to wear my tennis shoes. I had nice clothes on and some old tennis shoes.

Now, if you want to know something that looks ridiculous, it's wearing nice clothes with old tennis shoes. I looked down, and I looked around at everybody else: they all had good shoes and clothes. I began to think: *they're just doing that to show off so they can feel above other people*. And I began to harbour that thought. This was during the song service.

Then I have to say: it was the grace of God that I didn't end up like Ananias [Acts 5:5] because I fell down and I felt the *Life* leaving me. It was so terrible. I couldn't even think in words. I couldn't even think: forgive me. The best I could do to repent was just *the expression I could make*.

If *that* – what came upon me – if it had lasted another second, I would've been dead.

I fell down on the floor and I began crawling. Everybody was singing, and I was crawling down the aisle to the back door that went into sort of a hallway. This was a house that had been converted into a church. I just needed to get out of the sanctuary. I felt: if I stay here, I'm going to die. Actually, I still thought I would probably die.

I crawled out of the sanctuary. There was a small couch and it took all the effort I had to get up on that couch. I was just trying to survive. And I remember looking at the door that went into the sanctuary. Above the doorway, they had written: *I will enter into his gates with thanksgiving in my heart, and into his courts with praise.* [Psalm 100:4]

My point is: we dress this way *out of respect for the Lord Jesus Christ*. Or that's what it should be. It's *not* for my brother or my sister, even though, yes we respect them, and it is good as respect for them as well. But first and foremost: it's for the Lord Jesus Christ.

So he says here: *they walk in the vanity of their mind.* [Ephesians 4:17]

Oh, *they think they know how to live the life*. We're living in a world full of pride and high-minded people. They think they have this life figured out. They think: I make good money, I've got *this* under control and *that* under control.

I have to say: you don't have anything under control except that the Lord allows you.

We can think we have everything going but in just a second's time, a simple accident can happen and we could be paralyzed, unable to walk.

I have to say: *we should thank God for everything we have* because we can look around and there are people who *can't* walk or they have some other problem. *Whatever we do have*, it's by the grace of God. Praise the Lord. And we owe our life to Him. Praise the Lord.

Because of time, I'm going to jump down to verse 22. He says here:

Ephesians 4:22
That ye put off

Ephesians 4:22
the former conversation

Another translation of that is: *conduct*.

Ephesians 4:22
That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

In English we see that word: *lust*. [Ephesians 4:22] And many times the meaning of that today is – we could say – more along the line of sexual sins. But this *isn't* just talking about that. It means: *desires*.

Sometimes it can seem like something so simple and good: I just want a good income for my family, I just want my family to be happy, or *this*, or *that*. In a sense, there's nothing wrong with – we can say – a desire that things go well with our family. But at the end of the day, what are we doing to get things to that point? Are we *an example*? Do we treat others right? Or do we show partiality?

The enemy knows how to use *our emotions and magnify desires* where they actually become *lusts* in the eyes of God. And Paul says here: *they are deceitful*.

I have to say: if we're not taking care to really *walk in the Spirit*, sometimes we may not even realize the wrong that we're doing. [Galatians 5:16] *It darkens our understanding*. That's why Paul said: *deceitful lusts*. We have to *rise above that* and *put all of that off*. [Ephesians 4:22]

He says:

Ephesians 4:23

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

That's where it all happens. That's why in another place, Paul could say: *if there's anything worth praise, if there's any virtue, if there's any truth, whatever is honest, whatever is pure*, he said: *think on these things*. [Philippians 4:8]

We have to do an inventory from time to time: what am I thinking on? Where is my mind? Where is my focus? Is it on the things of the Lord or not? And we have to learn to let it be on the things of the Lord, that it be what *governs our life*. Praise the Lord.

I'll just read this last verse and then we'll close. Verse 24:

Ephesians 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

In Spanish it says: *the righteousness of the truth*. Praise the Lord. Amen.

We'll go ahead and close.