

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study

Theme: Believer's Conduct Part 1: Addressing our Walk

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The Contemporary Culture: Our culture today makes it difficult for the world to distinguish Christians. While we can't take responsibilities for our brothers and sisters in Christ who act like the world, we can take responsibility for our own conduct. Our Freedom in Christ does not mean we must be careless, carefree and live anyhow.

1 Peter 2:16: *"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slave".*

"The church is not to be allowed to drift into worldliness' it cannot be the church if her ethics, morality, and lifestyle are indistinguishable from the unbelievers around them." Jeff Reed.

How do you conduct yourself? How are you living your life? Is it a life that is pleasing to God?

How can we do life through God's specs? By Recognizing your **Identity** - Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are His workmanship [His own master work, a work of art], created in Christ Jesus [reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, ready to be used] for good works, which God prepared [for us] beforehand [taking paths which He set], so that we would walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us]"*.

What is the meaning of conduct? Conduct is defined as the manner in which a person behaves, especially on a particular occasion or in a particular context.

Why do you think our conduct is important? Especially to outsiders. We are the bible that they read!

1. **Relationship with unbelievers:** Pick your words carefully - **Colossians 4:5-6** *"Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person."*
1 Peter 2:12 *"Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation."*
1 Peter 3:16 *and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.*
2. **Relationship with Believers: 1 Timothy 3:14-15:** *"I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth".* 'Christ prayed for the disciples; we are to pray for each other. He gave himself in service to the disciples; we are to serve each other. He taught the disciples God's Word and assured them of the Father's forgiveness; we are to proclaim that promise of forgiveness to each other. Even more, we are to forgive each other'
3. **Relationship in the world: 1 Peter 1:13-15** *"So prepare your minds for action, be completely sober [in spirit—steadfast, self-disciplined, spiritually and morally alert], fix your hope completely on the grace [of God] that is coming to you when Jesus Christ is revealed. ¹⁴ [Live] as obedient children [of God]; do not be conformed to the evil desires which governed you in your ignorance [before you knew the requirements and transforming power of the good news regarding salvation]. ¹⁵ But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct [be set apart from the world by your godly character and moral courage]" AMP*
4. **Relationship with Spiritual Leaders: Hebrews 13:7** Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. Honor them
5. **Relationships within Church Family: Titus 2:1-8:**
 - **Leaders:** "But as for you, **Teach** the things which are in agreement with **sound doctrine** [which produces men and women of good character whose lifestyle identifies them as true Christians]. V 1
 - **Older men** are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, in steadfastness [Christ-like in character]. V 2

- **Older women:** “similarly are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips nor addicted to much wine, teaching what is right and good, v 3
- **Young Women:** “So that they may encourage the young women to tenderly love their husbands and their children, ⁵ to be sensible, pure, makers of a home [where God is honored], good-natured, being subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God will not be dishonored. V 4-5
- **Young men** to be sensible and self-controlled and to behave wisely [taking life seriously]. ⁷ And in all things show yourself to be an example of good works, with purity in doctrine [having the strictest regard for integrity and truth], dignified, ⁸ sound and beyond reproach in instruction, so that the opponent [of the faith] will be shamed, having nothing bad to say about us.

6. **Your Communion with God:** “Therefore become imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]; and walk *continually* in love.

In Scripture a *man's conduct* is called ‘WALK’ and there’s so much verses about our walk morally and spiritually as believers but we will look at a few and review it.

How do we walk?

- **Walk worthy of the Lord:** Colossians 1:10 “So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (*displaying admirable character, moral courage and personal integrity*) to fully please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing in the knowledge of God with deeper faith, clearer insight and fervent love for His precepts.
- **Walk in the Spirit:** Galatians 5:16 “But I say, **walk habitually in the Holy Spirit** (seek Him and be responsible to His guidance), and then you will certainly not carry out the desire of the sinful nature (which responds impulsively without regard for God and His precepts). Gal. 5:25 “*If we live by the Spirit, let us walk by the Spirit*”
- **Walk Carefully, Don’t be foolish or thoughtless:** Ephesians 5:15-17 “Therefore see that you walk carefully [living life with honor, purpose, and courage; shunning those who tolerate and enable evil], not as the unwise, but as wise [sensible, intelligent, discerning people], making the very most of your time [on earth, recognizing and taking advantage of each opportunity and using it with wisdom and diligence], because the days are [filled with] evil. Therefore, do not be foolish *and* thoughtless, but understand *and* firmly grasp what the will of the Lord is.
- **Walk As children of Light:** Ephesians 5:8 “or you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light”
- **Walk by Faith:** 2 Corinthians 5:7 “for we walk by faith, not by sight”

In summary, if we are not different from the outside world in our conduct, then what good is it; our obligation to the outside world is to be the gospel to them; our action can help or hinder the gospel. Let us examine the trajectory of our lives and see if changes need to be made. Matthew 5:16 “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father who is in heaven*”. ESV. They will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession.