

Walking Circumspectly

Word

Scripture Reference

Ephesians 5:15-21

Discussion Questions

1. How does walking help a person's health?
2. To walk in the light, walk according to the calling that we have received, walk by faith and not by sight, walk in love, and walk in the Spirit--the Bible speaks of these commands because a believers' walk is imperative to his/her growth and to his/her witness. When you stop walking, you will stop growing, and you will cease from the reason for your very existence as a Christian. Walking requires that you exert effort, that you energize or engage your muscles, and that you endeavor to progress. Read Ephesians 5:15-21. The word "circumspect" carries the idea of precision and accuracy. According to this passage, how can a believer in Christ walk circumspectly? First, you need to *walk in wisdom* (v. 5). This verse admonishes you to walk circumspectly not as fools but as wise. What is wisdom? How does a person obtain wisdom, according to Proverbs 1:7?
3. You may already know that wisdom is very important to have, but how do you acquire it? What should you do according to the following verses: (a) Proverbs 1:20, (b) Proverbs 4:6, (c) Proverbs 11:2. Share an experience when you did something right because of the wisdom that you have from God.
4. Secondly, to walk circumspectly, a believer must *walk in God's will* (v. 17). God's will is the highest will, and all our will must be melted upon it. We discover God's will in us as He transforms our mind (Romans 12:1, 2). When you look for God's will, you need to be looking at the bigger picture, which includes the salvation of mankind, sanctification of believers, submissiveness of Christians, and sufferings of some. Discuss how God's will is manifested in these areas of every believer's life. How do you respond to God's will? Share how you have submitted to God's will in the midst of suffering. What did you learn from it?

5. Thirdly, to walk circumspectly, a believer needs to *walk in willful submission* (v. 21). It takes humility and the filling of the Spirit to submit yourself to others. What does it mean to treat others better than yourself? Why does it take humility and the filling of the Spirit to apply these instructions from the Word of God? Share how you have struggled about this matter, but have been victorious in dealing with it.

Walk

The Word of God is instructing you as a believer to walk circumspectly with the Lord. To walk circumspectly is to walk cautiously and correctly in wisdom, in His will and in willful submission. In walking circumspectly, you need to focus on God and not on your circumstances. When you will look outside, you will be distressed; when you look inside your heart, you will be depressed; but if you look at God, you will be blessed. What part of your Christian life do you need to live out more regularly? In your Christian walk, what would be the first step you want to take in transforming an old pattern of behavior? Ask the Lord to help you in these matters.

Worship & Prayer

Father, thank You for Your Word, for reminding me that in my walk with you, I need to be actively engaged not only in actions, but in my heart and mind as well. Sometimes I forget that the success of my Christian walk is never through my own effort, but through seeking Your wisdom and submitting to Your perfect will. Forgive me, Father. I claim Your promise in James 1:5 that "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." May my walk with You be characterized by humility, wisdom, and complete dependence on You, Lord. In Jesus' name I pray these things. Amen.