

Walking In The Way Of Jesus; **Simple Instructions**

Considering the path from the tomb to the world

We are all living out what we have learned and what we believe to be true.

This was true with these new believers, these new apprentices of Jesus of Nazareth. They were living out what they had learned up until the point of belief in Jesus as the Son of the Living God and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Then they had to relearn what had learned.

We are all living out what we have learned.

If you have embraced Jesus as Savior and Lord then you are relearning how to walk life as a child of Father God.

Focal point to set the tone for the lesson: High top table with loaf of bread and a stone.

I am not throwing stones of judgment, condemnation, or criticism this morning but offering the teachings of Jesus as bread for our nourishment to help us live well and be healthy.

You have a choice to receive it either way but I want to reinforce to you that my motive is to teach truth with grace as did our Lord Jesus.

Acts 15:22-29 NKJV

²² Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

²³ They wrote this letter by them:

The apostles, the elders, and the brethren,

To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia:

Greetings.

²⁴ Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"—to whom we gave no such commandment—²⁵ it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. ²⁸ **For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:** ²⁹ that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, **you will do well.**

Farewell.

Sexual immorality (fornication)

Sexual sin

John 8:1-11 Our Lord addressing the woman caught in adultery.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 NLT

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more.

² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus.

³ God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. ⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor—⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. ⁶ Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. ⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

⁹ But we don't need to write to you about the importance of loving each other, for God himself has taught you to love one another. ¹⁰ Indeed, you already show your love for all the believers throughout Macedonia. Even so, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you to love them even more.

¹¹ Make it your goal to live a quiet life, minding your own business and working with your hands, just as we instructed you before. ¹² Then people who are not believers will respect the way you live, and you will not need to depend on others.

“Sexual sin” in this passage is the same meaning of sexual immorality or fornication as is used in other translations.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

CEV states 4:3 like this “*God wants you to be holy, so don't be immoral in matters of sex.*”

Ephesians 5:1-14 NLT

Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

³ Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God's people. ⁴ Obscene stories, foolish talk, and coarse jokes—these are not for you. Instead, let there be thankfulness to God. ⁵ You can be sure that no immoral, impure, or greedy person will inherit the Kingdom of Christ and of God. For a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.

⁶ Don't be fooled by those who try to excuse these sins, for the anger of God will fall on all who disobey him. ⁷ Don't participate in the things these people do. ⁸ For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So live as people of light! ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true.

*¹⁰ Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. ¹² **It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret.** ¹³ But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, ¹⁴ for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said,*

*“Awake, O sleeper,
rise up from the dead,
and Christ will give you light.”*

1 Timothy 4:15-17 NIV

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Terms like raunchy, obscene, lewd, crude, filthy, indecent, perverted, sensual, twisted, or vulgar seem to fill all avenues of communication and entertainment

In the same family or leads to terms like immoral, wicked, unjust, dishonest, vicious, licentious decisions

Got Questions:

In the New Testament, the word most often translated “sexual immorality” is *porneia*. This word is also translated as “whoredom,” “fornication,” and “idolatry.” It means “a surrendering of sexual purity,” and it is primarily used of premarital sexual relations. From this Greek word we get the English word *pornography*, stemming from the concept of “selling off.” Sexual immorality is the “selling off” of sexual purity and involves any type of sexual expression outside the boundaries of a biblically defined marriage relationship (Matthew 19:4–5).

C.S. Lewis, many years ago, in his book *Mere Christianity*, described our modern battle with human sexuality in the following words:

The Christian idea of marriage is based on Christ’s words that a man and wife are to be regarded as a single organism...The monstrosity of sexual intercourse outside marriage is that those who indulge in it are trying to isolate one kind of union (the sexual) from all the other kinds of union which was intended to go along with it and make up the total union...

This is not a teaching to hurt, condemn, or to judge anyone. We are all generally living in the same ungodly culture and worldwide internet community. It places great pressure on us to conform to its system of function.

I want to take you back to the reason that the early church leaders confirmed the expectations to the new believers and it is the reason that I am proclaiming these same truths today.

We want you to do well.

We want you to be spiritually healthy.

The world around us, many in the educational community, some of our family, and some of our friends will tell us that sexual immorality is not important and that it does not matter.

I have lived long enough and spent enough time with hurting people to experientially confirm that it really does matter.

It matters because there are consequences to us, mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically.

It matters because God has a design and He longs for us to walk in it.

God wants us to do well.

The lesson and testimony last week was focused on waiting for God and His mighty provision.

JD quote, "God's delays are not His denials."

Preparing us

Purifying us

How? Through a personal relationship with God through our Lord Jesus by grace through faith by the power of the Holy Spirit

Sin festers in the dark and gains strength

Secret sin does not typically stay secret as it is too powerful to remain unseen

These two realities do not create wellness or spiritual health

Steps of Spiritual health and wellness:

- > Confess
- > Forsake
- > Fill your heart, mind, and time with God and His thoughts. Don't focus on the filth and cleaning yourself up but rather fill yourself up with God and His goodness.
- > Fight for freedom:
 - Know God by making time for Him. John 15 Abide in Him
 - Make God known to others. Selfless service activates faith.

Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:9

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If you have embraced Jesus as Savior and Lord then you are relearning how to walk life as a child of Father God.

High top table with loaf of bread and a stone.

I am not throwing stones of judgment, condemnation, or criticism this morning but offering the teachings of Jesus as bread for our nourishment to help us live well and be healthy.

Will you eat of the bread of life today and pursue spiritual health/wellness.

Ask the Holy Spirit what He wants you to do? How are you supposed to respond?