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# Walking After the Spirit (Guilty, But Proven Innocent)

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## The Walk of Holiness

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking After the Spirit (Guilty, But Proven Innocent)***

***Lesson Text***

Romans 8:1–6 (AV)<sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: <sup>4</sup> That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Revelation 12:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

***Introduction***

Today we will begin a new series, “The Walk of Holiness”; based on Galatians 5:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

As you recall, Holiness is not simply about a bunch of dos and don’ts, but about a new way to live in Christ in which we obtain benefits from this new lifestyle.

It is a lifestyle that brings Joy, the Secret Place, the Fruit or Weapons of the Spirit, and Keys or Access to the Kingdom.

Another thing we want to look at concerning Holiness is our Walk. And by Walk, I’m referring to the way in which we execute or exercise our Holiness Lifestyle.

You can get a gym membership, or be on a Keto diet, but not reap the benefits because you are not doing it right. Maybe you’re not consistent, maybe you’re doing it all wrong, but if you’re not getting the desired results, something is missing, something is not right!

So let's start by looking at what it really means to Walk in Holiness, or “Walk After the Spirit”!

Romans 8:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:4 (AV)<sup>4</sup> That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What walk in the first verse, and righteousness in the fourth verse denotes here is behavior. And the challenge we have with our walk and behavior is that we are not very good at it.

Isaiah 64:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Romans 7:18–21 (AV)<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. <sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

And so, as a result of this fact, and Satan’s plan, we end up with a life or lifestyle of Condemnation, Incrimination, and Destruction. All of which are designed to destroy our lives. But today we make a decision to live and not die by changing our lifestyle, change our walk.

***Series and Sermon: The Walk of Holiness: Walking After the Spirit (Guilty, But Proven Innocent)***

“Walking After Liberty, Walking After Righteousness, and Walking After Life”

***I. Walking After Liberty (No Condemnation)***

Romans 8: <sup>1</sup> *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Condemnation is an expression of very strong disapproval or censure; the action of condemning someone to a punishment or sentencing.

This is the life or state that the enemy tries to keep the saints, the believers, the Christians in. A state of conviction, a state of denunciation, guilt, or shame.

Daniel 7:25 (AV)<sup>25</sup> And he shall speak *great* words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Revelation 12:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Now the reason why this works for far too many people, is because there is an element of truth in what we’re being accused and condemned for. “You Did Do it!”

John 8:4–7 (AV)<sup>4</sup> They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. <sup>5</sup> Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? <sup>6</sup> This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*. <sup>7</sup> So when they continued asking

him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, **He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.**

Why does the devil do this? Because Misery loves Company.

But tell the devil, “You need to go on with the mess, because I’m not moving in..”

John 8:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, **Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?** <sup>11</sup> She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, **Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.**

### **Walking After the Spirit is Walking After Liberty**

Romans 8:1–2 (NLT)*Life in the Spirit* So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

John 8:36 (AV)<sup>36</sup> **If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.**

Galatians 5:1 (AV)<sup>1</sup> Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

### ***II. Walking After Righteousness (No Incrimination)***

Romans 8:4–5 (AV)<sup>4</sup> That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

The second thing the enemy brings to us, the believer, is Incrimination.

Whereas Condemnation makes one feel guilty, Incrimination makes us look guilty.

Let’s be honest, based on our past lifestyle, we do look guilty. We haven’t been convicted yet, but in the court of public opinion, it doesn’t look good. “Dead Man Walking!”

What do you do when your past says that you’re guilty? “It Looks Bad”!

You want to know why it looks like you’re guilty? Because you are!

Remember when our parents used to spank us and then find out we didn’t do it. What would they say? Well you did something!

Even if we didn’t do what people are saying we did, we did do something!

So again, what do you do when your past says guilty? You create a new past, by walking into your future in Christ.

### **Walking After the Spirit is Walking After Your Future**

Philippians 3:13–14 (AV)<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, <sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:17–18 (AV)<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. <sup>18</sup> And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

### ***III. Walking After Life (No Obliteration)***

Romans 8:6 (AV)<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

First, the enemy makes us feel guilty (Condemnation), then he makes us look guilty (Incrimination), and finally he wants to sentence and punish us for being guilty (Obliteration).

Now we are in the sentencing state of life, and the prosecutor is recommending death! He wants to obliterate, completely destroy our lives. No time off for good behavior, no commutation, no time served, no pardons.

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: ...**

Death to your spiritual life, death to your family life, death to your emotional life, death to your married life, death to your business or career life.

Jesus said, the enemy came to kill you, but I came to breathe life into you.

John 10:10 (AV)<sup>10</sup> **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**

### **Walking After the Spirit is Walking After Your Life**

Revelation 12:10–11 (AV)<sup>10</sup> And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. <sup>11</sup> **And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.**

Psalms 118:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Romans 1:17 (AV)<sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

# Walking After the Spirit (Guilty, But Proven Innocent)

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## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Walking After the Spirit (Guilty, But Proven Innocent))

### Lesson Text

- Romans 8:1–6, Revelation 12:10–11

### Sermon Outline (Notes)

#### I. *Walking After Liberty (No Condemnation)*

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#### II. *Walking After Righteousness (No Incrimination)*

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#### III. *Walking After Life (No Obliteration)*

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### Questions (What was your main takeaway from Sunday’s Sermon?)

#### I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. What is the one attribute about yourself that you love? Are you willing to enhance it and how will you do it?
2. What is the one attribute about yourself that you dislike? Are you willing to improve it and how will you do it?

#### II. Into the Bible

1. Find and discuss 2 other scriptures that confirm the statement in Romans 8:2, which tells us that the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus freed us from the law of sin and death.
2. Romans 7:12 says that “the law itself is holy, and its commands are holy and right and good” (NLT), but Romans 8:3 identifies what the law could not do. What couldn’t the law do and why?

#### III. Life Application

1. We learned from the message on Sunday that the enemy tries to keep believers in a state of condemnation. What is a plan of action believers can utilize to combat this attack of the enemy?
2. What are some practical steps we can take to change our walk (behavior) in order to reap the benefits of a victorious life?