

Theory and Practice – Abiding in Him

1 John 2:6

Introduction

1. Paul encouraged Timothy to give his due diligence in presenting himself approved to God by handling His word accurately (cf. 2 Timothy 2:15).
2. As man is created to serve God, he should have two main concerns about life – the right theory, and its practice.
 - a. **Theory** – a set of principles on which the practice of an activity is based. (New Oxford American Dictionary)
 - b. **Practice** – the actual application or use of an idea, belief, or method, as opposed to theories relating to it. (Ibid.)
 - c. **Examples:**
 - i. **Farmer** – must know agriculture. When to plant? What to plant? Where to plant? How to nurture? How to harvest? Etc. THEN MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO APPLY THAT KNOWLEDGE.
 - ii. **Doctor** – must know anatomy and physiology and medicine. How does the body work? How does the medicine react with the body? Etc. THEN MUST BE WILLING AND ABLE TO APPLY THAT KNOWLEDGE.
3. Anyone with a familiarity of the New Testament knows the location of the people of God to be in Christ – Ephesians 1:3-6
 - a. **Theory** – Many will attest to this fact but will not give due diligence to discover the set of biblical principles on which the practice of abiding in Christ is based.
 - b. **Practice** – Some have come to know the set of biblical principles of abiding in Christ but do not make the actual application of the principles.
 - c. Both fall short!
4. Consider the Bible theory of “abiding in Him,” and then consider that it must be implemented to be true for anyone – 1 John 2:6
 - I. “OUGHT himself also to walk just as He walked”
 - A. Ought – to be under obligation.
 - B. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13; KJV)
 - a. Man has a duty.
 - b. They have fallen short (cf. Romans 3:23), but to fall short at one point DOES NOT MEAN THE OBLIGATION IS ERASED.
 - c. Forgiveness is intended to set man back on the path of his obligation – Ephesians 2:10 (the Christian’s created purpose)
 - C. Matthew 28:18 – there is a universal authority all are under.
 - a. Acts 2:34-38 – upon the conclusion of Peter’s gospel sermon the audience came to know that they OUGHT, the just didn’t know what, so Peter told them.
 - D. Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6 (“the”) – there is but two ways to go, and to reach God one OUGHT to take the narrow way.
 - II. “Ought HIMSELF also to walk just as He walked”

- A. Himself – personalizes the obligation.
 - B. **Galatians 6:5** – each individual must carry their own load.
 - a. **(v. 2)** – burden – *baros* – “experience of something that is particularly oppressive, burden” (BDAG)
 - b. **(v. 5)** – load – *phortion* – “an invoice (as part of freight), i.e. (figuratively) a task or service” (STRONG) **(cf. Matthew 11:29-30)** – regarding the burden of obligation/responsibility in obeying Christ)
 - c. I.E. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT TAKEN CARE OF BY ANOTHER.
 - C. **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14** – each man will be judged INDIVIDUALLY whether they fulfilled their obligation.
 - a. **Romans 2:6, 11** – God will render accordingly, and without partiality.
 - D. **Philippians 2:12** – Paul encouraged to give careful attention to our own salvation.
 - E. Self-examination is a constant must in order to know we are carrying out our own obligation – **2 Corinthians 13:5**
- III. “Ought himself **ALSO TO WALK** just as He walked”
- A. Also to walk – connection of the statement of theory with the obligation in action.
 - B. The theory must not only be heard, but applied – **James 1:22-25**
 - C. Faith – **“He who says he abides in Him”** – must be shown with works – **James 2:14-18, 26**
 - D. It is not enough to acknowledge obligation. One must also fulfill it – **Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21-23**
 - E. **“to walk”** – present active verb – it must continue throughout life until the end.
 - a. **Hebrews 4:9-10** – a rest remains, but not having entered it implies we are still to work.
 - b. **John 9:4-5** – Jesus Himself never stopped working.
- IV. “Ought himself also to walk **JUST AS** He walked”
- A. Just as – restricts the obligation of walking to a specific standard.
 - B. **John 14:6** – Jesus is the only way, that way is manifest in truth, and that truth brings life.
 - C. **Deuteronomy 4:2** – the words by which the obligation is communicated must not be altered.
 - D. To alter the words of the obligation is to alter your personal outcome:
 - a. **Leviticus 10:1-3** – Nadab/Abihu – fire not commanded.
 - b. **Numbers 20:7-12** – Moses struck the rock contrary to God’s instructions.
 - E. **John 15:1-2; Matthew 7:15-20** – every branch **MUST** bear fruit, but it must be **JUST AS** the vine, else it is not of the vine.
- V. “Ought himself also to walk just as **HE WALKED**”
- A. He walked – the standard identified.
 - B. **1 Corinthians 11:1** – Christ is the standard of imitation – nothing less, nothing more.
 - C. **1 John 2:3-6** – Christ is known through His words and commandments.

- a. Those who ask the question, “WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?” ask a noble question, but do not have the answer without the word of Christ.
- b. This is not speculative – WE CANNOT ARGUE BASED ON WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW.
- D. **John 8:31-32** – only those abiding in His word are His disciples.
- E. **1 John 1:5-7; 2:1** – there is no gray area, but Christ is only light.
 - a. We cannot find freedom in the false doctrine of a sinful nature.
 - b. We are not free to sin because of God’s grace **(cf. Romans 6:1)**
- F. To deviate from the standard is to sin – **1 John 3:4**
 - a. Then the only thing to do is to repent, confess and ask for forgiveness – **1 John 1:8-10; 5:14-17**
 - b. Nobody will get to heaven without walking “JUST AS HE WALKED.”

Conclusion

1. Our greatest goal should be to abide in Christ so that we can be found as such in the last day.
2. It is not enough to know you must abide in Christ.
3. It is not enough to know how to abide in Christ.
4. Theory must be put into practice in order to bear results.
5. ***“He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:6)***