

INTRODUCTION

In efforts to increase attendance, portions of the modern church are preaching a feel good message of “once saved behavior doesn’t matter” message. This message allows for members to be called Christian without the responsibilities. As the Bible says, all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God (**Rom 3:23**). The Bible also says, “there is none righteous, no, not one (**Rom. 3:10**). However these scriptures weren’t written to allow us to give up, throw our hands in the air in defeat. Neither do these scriptures give us carte blanche to continue to sin deliberately and to sin without repercussions. These scriptures were written to describe our state without the blood of Christ, not to give permission for a sinned-filled post-saved behavior.

Philippians 1:27-28 (NKJV)

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

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How do we know when our behavior is worthy of the gospel of Christ? There are lots of so-called Christians that talk a good game, or try to “fake it ‘til they make it”. Unfortunately for them, it takes more than that to walk worthy of the gospel of Christ. **James 2:14-17 (NKJV)** says:

¹⁴ What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit?

¹⁷ Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

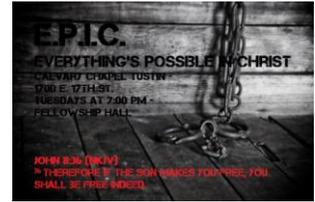
Colossians 1:10-12 (NKJV) says:

¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

So, just refraining from habitual sin isn’t really enough to walk worthy of the gospel of Christ. We actually have to do good things for our fellow man especially of the household of faith as **Galatians 6:10** states.



In addition, Paul wants the church at Philippi and the other churches to do well whether Paul is there to see their good works or not and he expects to hear good things about the church during his absence. Besides that, doesn't God see everything? So why does that not concern some members of the body of Christ?

Jesus taught us that a house divided against itself can't stand (**Matt. 12:25**). The Holy Spirit wants His church to be of one spirit and one mind with singleness of purpose and that is to help advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we do this then the task mentioned in the next verse will come as necessary as air to breathe.

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If we stick together in mind and spirit, when our adversaries come against us (which will include the devil and his demons) we will not be afraid and modify our behavior to suit them. Compromise will satisfy our adversaries because they know that compromise will eventually lead to all out sin.

Our uncompromised walk exposes the lost (even those that have good intentions). Good intentions are just that, good intentions with no action. Our uncompromised walk is in comparison to their final state of ruin and punishment and at the same time provides physical proof of our salvation which can only come from God.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.