

Walk Like A Man

by Bill Crews

These words caught my attention. I saw them, while walking in the mall, in the window of a shoe store! They were used to advertise a brand of shoes for boys. I got the point, but I didn't agree with it or appreciate it. It will take a lot more than a pair of shoes -- however impressive the brand name, or expensive the price, or comfortable the fit -- to enable a boy to "walk like a man." Sounds too much like the macho commercials for cigarettes and beer! These do not a man make either!

Rather than anyone being so concerned about "walking like a man" in a certain brand of shoes, all need to be concerned about how they are walking in a metaphorical sense -- that is, how they are living, how they are conducting themselves, the course they are pursuing in their lives. The New Testament speaks of walking "by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7), walking "in the steps of that faith of Abraham" (Rom. 4:12), walking "in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4), walking in good works that were prepared before by God (Eph. 2:10), walking "worthily" of our "calling" (Eph. 4:1), walking "in love" (Eph. 5:2), walking "as children of light" (Eph. 5:8), walking "carefully as wise" (Eph. 5:15), walking "worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing" (Col. 1:10), walking becomingly or honestly toward those who are not Christians (1 Thess. 4:12), walking in wisdom toward those who are not Christians (Col. 4:5), walking "in the light" (1 Jn. 1:7), walking as Christ walked (1 Jn. 2:6), walking after God's commandments (2 Jn. 6; cf. Lk. 1:6), walking "in the truth" (3 Jn. 3), walking "in the fear of the Lord" (Acts 9:31).

The New Testament also speaks of walking "in darkness" (Jn. 12:35; 1 Jn. 1:6; 2:11), walking "in craftiness" (2 Cor. 4:2), walking after one's "own lusts" (2 Pet. 3:3; Jude 18), walking "in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1-2), walking in "fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness" (Col. 3:5-7), walking in "lasciviousness, lusts, winebibbings, revellings, carousings, and abominable idolatries" (1 Pet. 4:3), walking "after the flesh" (2 Pet. 2:10), walking "disorderly" (2 Thess. 3:6, 11), not walking "uprightly according to the truth of the gospel" (Gal. 2:14), walking in such a way as to be "enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:17-19).

How we walk in a metaphorical sense is how we live, for "live" and "walk" are used interchangeably (Col. 3:7; 1 Pet. 4:1-3; Eph. 2:1-3). If you really want to "walk like a man," then resolve to walk (live) as a man in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 16:13-14 -- "quit ye like men" or conduct yourselves as men; Eph. 4:14-15 -- we are not to be immature, but we are to grow up). "Brethren, be not children in mind; yet in malice be babes/children, but in mind be men" (1 Cor. 14:20).

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