

My Walk with Christ - A Work in Progress

In Philippians 2, we have a checklist —qualities of a productive Christian servant. The first several verses of this chapter reveal the mind of Christ and His humility. But then Paul turns a corner and gives a series of personal admonishments. In these verses, we see five characteristics of a Christian servant:

1. _____ - Philippians 2:12

As adults, isn't this the verse that we pray for our children, grandchildren, Sunday school classes, church families—those we lead in any area? We desire that their Christian walk would be consistent at all times. Our own walk should also be consistent! There shouldn't be a discrepancy in who we are "on the job" compared to who we are when we are with our families or alone with our thoughts. There should be unquestionable, predictable constants in our lives that include integrity, graciousness, humility, and faithfulness.

2. _____ - Philippians 2:13

We tend to put a great deal of emphasis on what we *do*, but this verse reminds us that it starts in what we *will*. To be who God wants us to be, we must surrender our will to Him and allow Him to shape our desires.

3. _____ - Philippians 2:14

When we find ourselves murmuring about everything and disputing with everyone, we can be sure that our circumstances and our co-laborers are not the problem. It is our heart that needs to be adjusted. Generally, a riled spirit is a sign of an unyielded heart. When I find my spirit is agitated, I do well to remember Philippians 2:13 and yield to the Lord to make me willing for a changed heart.

4. _____ - Philippians 2:15

Do we not live in a crooked and perverse nation? Then we have all the more reason to shine with untainted lights. *Blameless* is an interesting and important word. It means *unsubstantiated*. People can say anything they want to tarnish our character and cast aspersion on our motives—and they do! But it is our responsibility to see that none of it is true. *Romans 14:16-17* says, "Let not then your good be evil spoken of: For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

5. _____ - Philippians 2:16

Paul's epistles are full in athletic metaphors. The picture in this verse is of a runner extending his lit torch while finishing his race. We can't control the darkness around us, but we can keep holding forth the word of life—we can continue to preach the gospel and invest our lives in eternity. I look forward to "the day of Christ," and it is my heart's desire that I will have run faithfully and labored fruitfully until that day. These verses from Philippians 2 challenge me to look past my to do lists and run with a quality of heart that brings honor to the Lord.

