

SERMON-BASED STUDY: WALK THE LINE

1 John 2:12-17, ESV – ¹² I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake. ¹³ I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. ¹⁴ I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

1 This week we were reminded that we have all that we require to walk the line. What do we have that helps us to walk the line?

2 What does it mean to walk the line? How can we tell when we are not walking the line?

3 Do you think it is possible to love God and love the world at the same time? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Matthew 6:19-24, ESV** – ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, ²³ but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

4 Looking at the passage above, what does Matthew mean by “lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven”?

5 What is the contrast between a “healthy eye” and a “bad eye”? How can a person get and keep a “healthy eye”?

6 How does laying up treasure for yourself in heaven and a healthy eye relate to walking the line?

B **James 4:4-10, ESV** – ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

7 What does it mean to have “friendship with the world”? Why would this make a person an enemy of God?

8 How does it feel to know that God “yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? How should we respond?

9 What is the connection between grace and humility? Why is this important when walking with God?

TAKING IT HOME

Walking the line involves keeping our focus on God, remembering who we are in Him, and trusting in His grace and guidance. How are you doing in these different areas? What is one thing you could do this week to improve your walk with God? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is showing you. Pray for one another as you strive to walk with God.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Ecclesiastes 4:8

Luke 24:47

John 14:7

Acts 10:43, 13:38

Romans 12:2

1 Corinthians 7:31

Ephesians 6:10

2 Timothy 4:10