

“How to Walk the Wall”
Selected Scriptures
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Matthew 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.
¹⁴For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

I. Falling off the wall on the side of Legalism

a. The legalist claims to follow God avidly.

Matthew 15:8a “THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS.”

b. The legalist doesn't pay attention to his heart.

Matthew 15:8b “BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.”

c. The legalist is not pleasing to God, their worship serves no purpose (pointless).

Matthew 15:9a ⁹“BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME.”

d. The legalist substitutes man-made teachings for God's.

Matthew 15:9b “TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.”

Matthew 15:1 Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ²“Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” ³And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition?” ⁴“For God said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,’ and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’ ⁵“But you say, ‘Whoever says to *his* father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,” ⁶he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ “And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition. ⁷You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:...”

II. Falling off the wall on the side of License

a. Licentious people may or may not honor God with their lips.

Jude 1:4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 2:1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.

b. Their heart is far from God.

2 Peter 2:13 ...suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they carouse with you, ¹⁴having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children;...

c. Their worship is empty.

Isaiah 1:11 "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed cattle; and I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. ¹²When you come to appear before Me, who requires of you this trampling of My courts? ¹³Bring your worthless offerings no longer, incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and Sabbath, the calling of assemblies--I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. ¹⁴I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts; they have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them*. ¹⁵So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you; yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood."

d. They substitute man's teaching for God's - most often they take from His teaching.

1 Peter 2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it* as bond slaves of God.

III. Walking the Wall

A. Don't mess with the Word of God.

Revelation 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

B. Watch your heart (because that is what God is watching).

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God *sees* not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1. Wholly devoted to God

1 Kings 15:3 He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David.

2. Does all His will

Acts 13:22 After He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, "I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will."

3. Broken & Contrite after sinning

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.