

PASTOR'S CORNER



*1 John 2:6
Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

SPIRITUAL GAIT

Have you ever been able to identify someone by how they were walking? You didn't see their face – you might have only glimpsed them for a moment – but you feel pretty sure you know who it is because of how they walked? Scientists are contending that each person's gait (the way we walk) is almost as unique as a person's fingerprint. According to the experts, because gait is impacted by the factors such as weight, spinal alignment, length of limbs, and posture (among others), individual gaits will vary as these combinations vary. While it is fascinating to study our natural gait, it more important to examine our spiritual "gait."

The Bible often describes living as "walking." In our verse today we are challenged to walk a certain way. While our natural gaits are probably unique, our spiritual gait should not be. Because we are all following Christ, our lives on earth should look like

His. This reality demands that those who claim to follow Christ ought to walk as He walked. There are many things that can be said about Christ's walk, but at its heart Christ's life demonstrated a profound commitment to His Father and a consuming love for people. In fact, when challenged about which commandment was the greatest, Jesus revealed that loving God with all our hearts, soul, mind and strength is the first and greatest commandment, and the second is to love our neighbors as ourselves. These two commandments, Jesus said, are the heart and soul of the Ten Commandments.

Living like this is not automatic to us who have been accustomed to living in sin. Nor is it possible through human strength and grit. We must choose to fill our hearts and minds with the Word of God while leaning fully on the Spirit's strength to empower us. As we pursue this path over time we will discover that we

are becoming more and more like Christ in our attitudes, values, and behavior. And as Christians in general embrace these principles we will also look more and more alike in our daily living. It won't be long before people are able to recognize that we are Christians by our "gait."

So, how's your spiritual gait? May those who know you recognize that you are walking like Christ walked.

God bless you,

Pastor James



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Growth Groups begin this Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Men's Breakfast Saturday 9 am.
- Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith? Join us for 3-Circles, a six-week evening training to help us have more and better gospel conversations. Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available.
- We need a few more members to help us in our nursery. Please speak to Candice if you are able to help.
- We need some members to volunteer to assist with audio. Training will be provided. Please speak to Pastor James if you are interested.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at PJVS1.blogspot.com.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM**

FEB 6

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

FEB 9

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE
1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM**

FEB 18

Join us in-person at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM**

FEB 11

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

**GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM**

FEB 8 & FEB 9

In-person at church.

**WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM**

FEB 18

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!