

# The Old Paths

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## “Would Jesus Do What We Do?”

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**T**his question is a little different from the oft-asked question “What would Jesus do?” It is true that asking what Jesus might do in a situation is a righteous question to ask. Such a question is consistent with Bible teaching (Col. 3:17; I Pet. 4:11; etc.). However, in this article, let put this question in a different light by asking if Jesus would be doing what we currently are doing. Would He be practicing what we are practicing? Would Jesus ....

### Make Excuses For Not Attending Worship Services?

Would it be a logical thing to assume that if Jesus were on earth today He would not be present to worship God and study His word every time He could? Jesus gave His body and His life’s blood to purchase the church (Jn. 19:33-34; Acts 20:28). The church’s work includes spreading His word, the gospel, and worshipping God “*in spirit and in truth*” (I Thess. 1:8; Jn. 4:24). Therefore, would Jesus do what many do today and not attend every worship service, offering lame excuses as to why He thought it necessary to neglect this time with brethren in worship to God (Heb. 10:24-25)? It is unthinkable to suggest that Jesus would not regard His church any more than one does a social club!

### Do Just Enough To Get By?

We have some who want to do “just enough” of the Lord’s work to get by or be considered “faithful” by men rather than by God (Rev. 2:10; I Cor. 15:58; Matt. 6:2, 5, 16). Would Jesus do what we do? In I Peter 2:21-22, we learn the answer when we read, “*For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.*” Jesus certainly kept all the law of Moses. He did not just do enough to “get by,” but did all! While we are not under the law of Moses today (Col. 2:14); we are under the Law of Christ (Gal. 6:2). As Christ did, so let us do all we are commanded so that we may have “*the right to the tree of life*” (Rev. 22:14)!

### Act Hypocritical?

Knowing that some “Christians” are hypocrites, would Jesus be a hypocrite? The Bible reveals the answer. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for being hypocrites. They said one thing and did something else (Matt. 23:13-36). In contrast, Jesus practiced what He preached! Notice that in Matthew 23:3-4, Jesus told His disciples to “observe and do” what these people said. Jesus did not exalt Himself, or act in a hypocritical way to those He was teaching. Knowing this truth, why do we think we can get away with acting one way on Sunday, and living another way the rest of the week?

### Rely On His Opinions Rather Than The Word Of God?

We do not have to look far to see people who will try to justify themselves by their opinions instead of submitting to God’s Word. Too many live their lives based upon what they feel rather than what has been taught in Scripture. Would Jesus do this? No! While upon this earth, Jesus never relied on what He wanted to do. He did what God told Him (Lk. 2:51; Jn. 12:49-50; Matt. 26:39, 42, 44). Jesus kept the law without fail (I Pet. 2:22). Knowing that this is the case, would Jesus be doing what we are doing? Who are we to think we can do something that the Son of God did not do?

### Teach In Such A Way So As To Not “Offend” Anyone?

There is a cry today from men who say that we ought not offend anyone by our teaching, but “be as Jesus was.” So, let us find out how Jesus was! One example of how our Lord taught is seen in Matthew 15. After Jesus condemned the Pharisees for honoring their traditions more than God’s commands, the disciples said, “*Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?*” (Matt. 15:12). Jesus answered by saying, “*Leave them alone...*” (Matt. 15:14). Some men allow hurt feelings, angry looks and the like (or the potential for such) to keep them from spreading the truth. Would Jesus do as we do? No, Jesus did not allow these things to get in the way of teaching and preaching the Truth! It is a sad commentary on brethren when we see them refuse to spread the gospel because they do not want to hurt anyone’s feelings. Beware of those who act like this, and let us act and speak as Jesus did (Col. 3:17; I Pet. 2:21-22).

## “Spouse-Hunting”

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**G**od established marriage (Gen. 2:18-24). Therefore, He has the right to regulate it. We cannot simply make up the rules and expect great success. Rather, if we look to Him and His Word, we will find laws and principles that help ensure happiness and success in marriage.

Something that needs to be done before the wedding day, long before, is to find out about the other person. Some of the following suggestions were taken from Before You Say “I Do” by H. Norman Wright and Wes Roberts.

Find out the beliefs and practices of your loved one’s parents. The upbringing your fiancé had will have a tremendous impact on them. This is true even if they do not strictly follow their parent’s practices. There may be hurdles you need to overcome before committing to a life-long relationship with this person. If he or she is unwilling to give them up, and you cannot live with them, then matrimony is potential disaster.

Ask the object of your affection what defines being spiritually alive. If he says believing in Jesus, but does not think much of Bible study, prayer, or attending services, you have a big problem. (We are assuming you are diligent in all three areas, Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:17; Heb. 10:24, 25). It is difficult for one spouse to be deeply dedicated to God while the other is half-hearted. Yes, you can still be faithful and go to Heaven. However, without your spouse walking with you,

there is much left undone and potential unmet.

Which potential in-law is the spiritual leader? Is it the mother-in-law or father-in-law? If the mother-in-law to be has to constantly push, pull, and prod the father-in-law, then what type of lasting impression has that left on your future mate? Fathers are charged with taking the lead (Eph. 6:4). Mothers can do a fantastic job when the father fails in his duties, as Timothy’s mother did (2 Tim. 1:5). Yet, the point in this article is to emphasize what is best and what will help give a future marriage the greatest chances of success and joy.

How often does the other person read his or her Bible and pray? This will help fill out the picture of what he or she means by “spiritually alive.” To some, Bible study is important, but they only do it once a month or a few times a year. This type of question will give clarity to the depth of commitment your loved one has.

You may also want to ask what she prays about. Is it merely superficial and worldly in nature? Does she pray about looks and money; not about holiness and eternity? It matters. *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he”* (Prov. 23:7).

This list can be added to, I am sure, but, these thoughts should help you get going on some important matters to discuss and consider. Finally, consider this: anyone looking for a spouse should be prepared to spend time with his/her parents, siblings, and friends. This will give insight into what kind of person he/she likes to be around, what type of influences are there, and so on. It goes without saying, a great deal of time needs to be spent with your potential mate. Don’t be in a rush to get married, no matter what. Hastily entering into a life-long “contract” is not wise. Get to know the other person well enough to find their faults, including the major ones if you can. They need not stop a marriage from taking place, but knowing what you will be dealing with will allow you to go in with your eyes open.

### Editor’s Note:

These words ought to be taught to our children and grandchildren before they find their mate. The marriage relationship is life-changing, and getting married is second only to becoming a Christian in terms of the life-changing effects it has on a couple. Please remember that marriage is from God. It is a life-long commitment (Rom. 7:2-3; Matt. 19:4-6) and must not be entered into lightly or frivolously.

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### Meeting Times:

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**Sunday Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **5:00 p.m.**  
**Wednesday Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 p.m.**

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