

Walk as He Walked Fifth Day of the Octave of Christmas Friday, December 29, 2017
8:15 AM **1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35** (The Church's desire to include everyone does not mean everyone is included, because to be really included as a disciple of Christ we have to walk as he walked, and we cannot hate.)

“This is the way we may know that we are in union with him: whoever claims to abide in him ought to walk just as he walked.”

This is rather clear and simple. “This is how we know that we are in union with him,” that is, Christ: “whoever claims to abide in him ought to walk just as he walked.” This means that Jesus is not some sort of unattainable ideal that we hold up and adulate. **Jesus is meant to be a model that we actually follow**, and that does not mean in a series of activities as much **as a way of living**. “As he walked,” walking is a way of living. In fact walking is a very important word in Hebrew, *hallach*. The *Halacha*, the oral tradition, comes from this word, *hallach*. And that's the word used here, but in the Greek. It's the idea of daily walking, doing, living. And of course **it involves the feelings because it's the feelings that are the energy for the walk, for the life**.

Now later on in this very reading it also mentions the difference between hate and love. They are not options for the disciple. **The disciple cannot hate his brother or sister and claim to love God**. That's what he says. He says anyone who says that is a liar. And we know who the father of lies is: the devil. And Jesus really did call some of the Pharisees “children of the devil.” That is found also in the Fourth Gospel. “God is not your Father,” he says to them. “If God were your Father, you would not be persecuting me.”

So this is the reality we are living in. On the one hand the Christian Church has always been desirous of including everybody. But **the Church's desire to include everyone does not mean everyone is included, because to be really included as a disciple of Christ we have to walk as he walked, and we cannot hate**. Therefore such things as racism are completely unacceptable, totally and radically unacceptable. To despise others for any reason, but especially for categorical reasons such as race, class, wealth, or whatever, is **completely impossible for someone who is walking as he walked**. So this reading is actually a very profound and very challenging one. It is really saying that there is no such thing as pure faith. **The only kind of faith that matters is faith in action, and faith in action means to walk just as he walked**.