

THE MODEL CHURCH: A STRONG AND TRUE MINISTER 1 THESSALONIANS 02:01–12

Introduction

Remember the church at Thessalonica was under heavy persecution. The Jewish religionists had risen up against Paul and the church and were set on destroying both. They enlisted all the Gentile citizens they could to join their attack. They convinced the people that the preaching of Christ would destroy their freedom and affect their jobs and businesses. The persecution became so violent that Paul was forced to flee for his life. However, his absence did not stop the persecution. The attacks against the church and its believers continued. One form which the persecution took was to destroy the reputation of Paul. Accusation after accusation was levelled against Paul, and rumour after rumour was spread about him.

Paul's purpose in writing this passage was to strengthen and build up the believers in Christ. To do so he had to answer and correct the charges against him. Paul knew how easily people are influenced by charges and rumours and how easily they become exaggerated. He wanted no question and no misunderstanding about him and the ministry of Christ. He was a minister of Christ, a true minister, and the gospel of Christ was true. This meant that their faith was valid. They were truly saved and made acceptable to God by the death of Christ, and they were going to live eternally in God's kingdom and glory (v. 12). The point is this: this passage gives us the picture of a strong minister — the kind of minister and servant of Christ that every believer should be.

- I. He has a full and fruitful ministry — not vain and fruitless (v. 1).
 - II. He preaches boldly (v. 2).
 - III. He preaches a pure gospel, lives a clean life, and does not deceive people (v. 3).
 - IV. He preaches to please God, not men (v. 4).
 - V. He does not preach for what he can get out of it (v. 5).
 - VI. He does not preach for glory nor for the prestige and authority of position (v. 6).
 - VII. He preaches gently and lovingly (vv. 7-8).
 - VIII. He preaches, labouring night and day (v. 9).
 - IX. He preaches with a clean life, an impeccable life (v. 10).
 - X. He preaches as a father — tenderly giving direction (v. 11).
 - XI. He preaches with one objective — edification (v. 12).
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Another Outline: A Strong Minister (1 Thes. 02:01–12)

1. ***Background (v. 1)***

- a. Opponents slandered Paul. b. He was not a failure.

2. ***His boldness (v. 2)***

3. ***His message: a pure gospel (v. 3)***

4. ***His motive (vv. 4-6)***

- a. Not to please men but God. b. Not flattering words.
c. Not for greed. d. Not for glory.
e. Not even claiming due rights.

5. ***His testimony (vv. 7-11)***

- a. A gentle man (vv. 7-8). b. A labouring man (v. 9).
c. A clean man (v. 10). d. A fatherly man (v. 11a).

6. ***His fatherly approach (v. 11)***

7. ***His one objective: edification (v. 12)***

1 THESSALONIANS 02:01–12
CHARGES AGAINST PAUL

This passage shows the charges being levelled against Paul by those who were trying to destroy his reputation (see *Introduction*, 1 Th. 2:1-12; 2 Cor. 1:12-22). □

I. 1 Thessalonians 02:01 Accusations Against Paul, Fruitful Minister

The strong and true minister has a full and fruitful ministry, not a failure (gegonen) ministry. The word failure means empty, ineffective and fruitless. Paul reminds the believers that his ministry among them was not an empty and fruitless ministry. People had been ministered to and some had even accepted Christ and experienced a genuine conversion. They were now living for Christ — living for Him through the most difficult of times, even persecution. Therefore, the charge that his ministry was empty and fruitless was false. God had His hand upon him and God was blessing his ministry.

II. 1 Thessalonians 02:02 Bold Preaching

The strong minister preaches boldly even when there is opposition. Right before Paul had launched his mission into Thessalonica, he had been shamefully mistreated and imprisoned by some businessmen in Philippi, and he was forced by the city officials to leave the city. However, this did not discourage Paul. He did not give up the ministry because he had been persecuted. He moved on to another city, Thessalonica. But note what he faced in Thessalonica: persecution — the same mistreatment and attacks. Did this discourage and cause him to give up the ministry? No! He continued to boldly preach

the gospel despite the opposition and conflict. The point is this: bold preaching is proof of a true and strong minister. A true and strong minister knows that God has called him and he knows why God has called him: to preach the gospel. Therefore, he boldly preaches regardless of circumstances. His bold preaching of the gospel is one of the strongest answers to his critics.

Thought 1. Note what bold preaching means. It means to preach “His gospel [God’s]” not to lambaste one’s critics. The pulpit is not the place to deal with critics; it is the place for preaching the gospel of God — the place where the unsearchable riches of Christ are to be proclaimed. This is exactly what Paul did despite the critics of the gospel who opposed him.

Mat 10:7 *As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’*

Mark 16:15 *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”*

Acts 5:20 *“Go, stand in the temple courts,” he said, “and tell the people the full message of this new life.”*

Acts 9:20 *At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.*

1 Cor 1:30 *It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.*

2 Cor 4:5 *For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.*

2 Tim 4:2 *Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.*

Thought 2. The word “dared” (eparresiasametha) means to speak boldly and freely; to speak out and to speak publicly without fear. Too many fail to witness for Christ because they fear ridicule, embarrassment, mockery and persecution. They are secret believers of Christ instead of bold witnesses for Christ.

III. 1 Thessalonians 02:03 Minister Preaches a Pure Gospel

The strong and true minister preaches a pure gospel, lives a clean life and does not deceive people. Three things are said here.

1. The strong minister preaches a pure gospel. His appeal, the gospel he preaches, is not based upon error (planes). Paul did not add to nor take away from the Word of God.
=> He did not tip-toe around or bypass controversial subjects because of opposition.
=> He did not attempt to tickle the ears of people by preaching only the subjects that they liked; he did not neglect the whole counsel of God’s Word.
=> He did not concentrate on pleasing subjects in order to win the approval of people; he did not neglect the subjects of sin and judgment.

=> He did not preach in order to secure personal acceptance and support nor to gain a personal following.

=> He did not preach to secure his livelihood nor to strengthen his position as pastor.

=> He did not preach his own ideas nor the novel ideas of others. He did not follow the latest theological fashion in order to appear up-to-date and well-read.

Paul preached the pure gospel, the pure Word of God. The message of Jesus Christ was not his creation; it was the act of God, the glorious gospel of salvation which God had sent to men through His Son. Paul was not the creator of the message; God was.

=> Paul was only the messenger of God — a mere man whom God had employed to proclaim His message.

=> Paul was only the ambassador of God — a mere servant chosen to deliver the King's message to the world of men.

The point is this: Paul had no right to change the message. He had absolutely nothing to do with formulating the gospel of Christ. Therefore, he preached the gospel exactly as God had given it. He preached the pure gospel, the pure Word of God, and he did it without deviating one iota from it.

2. The strong minister lives a pure and clean life. The word “impure” (akatharsias) has to do with moral uncleanness and impurity (William Barclay. *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*. “The Daily Study Bible.” Philadelphia, PA: The Westminster Press, 1959, p. 220). Paul was being charged with immorality. A.T. Robertson quotes Lightfoot and points out that this may be startling, to think that Paul was accused of immorality. However, such an accusation was not to be unexpected because of the immoral society of the day, a society so immoral that it had permeated some of the very religions of the day. Paul clearly says that he was not guilty. He had not used the ministry nor his position in the ministry to attract women. He had not lived an impure life. (A.T. Robertson. *Word Pictures in the New Testament*, Vol. 4, p. 16.)

Thought 1. Note two lessons that we must always keep in mind as the followers and servants of God.

- 1) Some believers — ministers and laymen alike — have rumours spread about them. Rumours, of course, damage and hurt and often destroy the testimony and ministry of people. But most tragic of all, rumours always affect the name of Christ and turn some people away from the gospel and from any chance of ever being reached for Christ. The persons who begin and spread rumours that destroy people shall face the wrath of God regardless of their profession to know God.
- 2) Some believers — ministers and laymen alike — fall and commit immorality. This, of course, stirs wild imaginations in those who are most hurt by the fall of the believer, wild imaginations of immoral behaviour heaped upon immoral behaviour. The hurt person shares his or her hurt with dear friends, and from this, rumours

begin. Before long, rumour is built upon rumour. Unfortunately, this goes on until about all that is known is rumour and what has been imagined. As the followers and ministers of Christ, we must always remember this: if the fallen person is a genuine believer, a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ, one of two things will happen...

- The fallen believer will repent and confess his sin to God, and God will forgive him. God will also begin to use him again — sometimes more effectively than ever before. Why? Because God is a God of restoration. If He were not, few if any of us would ever be serving Him. This is a fact that we desperately need to learn.
- God will take the fallen believer on home to be with Him. Some genuine believers do slip into sin and enslavement— a point beyond which they are willing to return to Christ. Now note: only God knows when a believer is unwilling to repent and when he has reached the point where he will never repent. At that point, the believer is never again to be a witness for Christ. In fact, his life and testimony are only doing damage and cutting the heart of Christ beyond imagination. Therefore, God has no choice but to take him on home to be with Him. (See *Judgment*, 1 Cor. 11:27-30.)

1 Th 4:2-6 *For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honourable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.*

1 Th 5:22-23 *Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Pet 2:11 *Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

3. The strong minister does not deceive people. There is no deception about him at all.
 - a. Paul did not deceive people by preaching a false gospel. He was not out...
 - to secure a personal following.
 - to earn a living.
 - to serve in a respectable profession.
 - to live a comfortable life.

Paul was sincere and genuine: he preached a true gospel. And he was out only to share that gospel so that men might come to know the only living and true God.

- b. Paul did not deceive people by the life he lived. He did not preach one thing and live another. He was not unclean, immoral and dirty. He lived a pure and righteous life before God and the people.

1 Tim 4:6 *If you point these things out to the brothers, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, brought up in the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed.*

Titus 1:9-10 *He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group.*

Titus 2:1 *You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.*

IV. 1 Thessalonians 02:04 Minister Pleases God

The strong and true minister preaches and ministers to please God, not men. Most men do not want to hear...

- about sin and judgment.
- about the utter necessity of men to depend upon the death of Christ in order to be saved.
- about the demand that a person commit all he is and has to Christ in order to meet the needs of a desperate world.

The preaching of the truth is not always popular, not with a worldly and unbelieving people. Therefore, when a minister is thrown in the midst of a people who are worldly, he can be tempted to tone down his message to please the people. The temptation can be especially strong if his livelihood is at risk.

However, note what Paul says: he sought only to please God, not men. There were two strong reasons why.

1. First, God was the Person who had trusted him with the gospel, not men. God owned the gospel, and He was the Person who had called Paul to proclaim the gospel. Men had nothing to do with the formulation of the gospel nor with calling Paul. God would take care of him as he preached the gospel. God had called him to preach; therefore, he was God's. Consequently, he could trust God to take care of him if men reacted against the gospel and attacked him.
2. Second, God alone would try his heart and judge him. He was to stand and give an account for his ministry some day, and he was to stand before God, not before men. Men might be able to cause some difficulty for him on earth, but God would cause difficulty for him through all eternity if he abused or opposed the gospel of God.

John 7:13 *But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the Jews.*

John 8:29 *“The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”*

John 12:43 *“For they loved praise from men more than praise from God.”*

Col 3:22 *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favour, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.*

1 Th 2:4 *On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.*

1 Th 4:1 *Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.*

Heb 11:5 *By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.*

Prov 29:25 *Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.*

Isa 51:12 *“I, even I, am he who comforts you. Who are you that you fear mortal men, the sons of men, who are but grass.”*

V. **1 Thessalonians 02:05** *Motives for Preaching*

The strong and true minister does not preach and minister for what he can get out of it.

1. The word “flattery” (*kolakeias*) always means the kind of flattery that is given in order to get something out of people (William Barclay. *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, p. 221). Paul did not flatter people in order to secure their friendship, following or support. He, of course, commended people; and his letters in the New Testament show that he commended them quite often. But he did it truthfully, always covering the weak areas that people needed to strengthen as well as their strong and commendable areas.

Job 32:21 *I will show partiality to no one, nor will I flatter any man.*

Psa 12:3 *May the Lord cut off all flattering lips and every boastful tongue.*

Prov 24:24 *Whoever says to the guilty, “You are innocent” — peoples will curse him and nations denounce him.*

Prov 26:28 *A lying tongue hates those it hurts, and a flattering mouth works ruin.*

Prov 28:23 *He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favour than he who has a flattering tongue.*

Prov 29:5 *Whoever flatters his neighbour is spreading a net for his feet.*

2. The word greed shows that Paul was accused of being in the ministry out of greed; that he had chosen the ministry to earn a livelihood and to make money. Paul emphatically denies this and says that his lifestyle proves it. He declares that the church knows the fact and that God is witness to the truth.

Luke 12:15 *Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”*

Rom 12:17 *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.*

Rom 13:8 *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law.*

2 Cor 8:21 *For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.*

Col 3:5 *Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.*

Jer 6:13 *“From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.”*

Ezek 33:31 *My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you to listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain.*

VI. 1 Thessalonians 02:06 Minister’s Motives

The strong and true minister does not preach or minister for glory nor for the prestige and authority of a position. Note two things.

1. Paul says that he did not seek the glory, prestige, honour or recognition of people. He was not out to be recognized as a *great preacher or good minister*. He was not seeking to be recognized as a leader or as a man of position and authority.

Mat 20:26-28 *“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Mat 23:11 *“The greatest among you will be your servant.”*

John 5:44 *“How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God ?”*

John 12:26 *“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.”*

1 Pet 1:24 *For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall.”*

Psa 49:17 *For he will take nothing with him when he dies, his splendour will not descend with him.*

Psa 91:15 *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him.*

Isa 5:14 *Therefore the grave enlarges its appetite and opens its mouth without limit; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revellers.*

Hosea 4:7 *The more the priests increased, the more they sinned against me; they exchanged their Glory for something disgraceful.*

2. Paul says that he had the right to assert his authority as an apostle of Christ. Being a minister of God is a great honour, and men should respect and appreciate the call. But the minister of God must not exalt his authority, for he has been called by God Himself, called to serve the sovereign Majesty of the universe. He must not be demanding and ordering people around. God has not called the minister to hold a position of honour and authority, but to minister and preach the gospel.

VII. 1 Thessalonians 02:07–8 Style of Ministry

The strong and true minister preaches and ministers gently and lovingly. What Paul says is descriptive and it shows the deep love he held for the church and its believers at Thessalonica.

1. Paul was as gentle toward them as a mother who nurses her children. The idea is that the minister must minister to his people with...
 - tenderness • care • warmth
 - intensity • affection • love

He must treat them as precious, as his most beloved people, holding them ever so closely to his heart.

2. Paul's affection for his people was so strong that he preached the gospel to them in the midst of adversity and great opposition. And he was willing to do even more: he was willing to pour out his soul for them; to sacrifice his very life to make sure that they came to know Christ and the eternal salvation that was in Him. Note that Paul says he was willing to sacrifice his life for one simple reason: they were dear (agapetoi) to him. The word dear means beloved, very dear. They were his beloved people.

Acts 20:31 *So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.*

Phil 4:1 *Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!*

2 Tim 2:24 *And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful.*

1 Pet 1:22 *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.*

VIII. 1 Thessalonians 02:09 Tireless Ministry

The strong and true minister preaches and ministers, labouring night and day. John Walvoord makes a striking point: Paul did not have a five day nor a forty hour week. He did not work until four or five o'clock nor until dark and then have the rest of the day for himself (*The Thessalonian Epistles*, p. 30).

Paul was the servant of Christ to meet the desperate needs of the world and to reach men with the glorious news that Christ could save them from death and give them eternal life. How could he rest and relax when people in every city and community were dying every day? He, of course, needed sleep and rest as all men do; but it is clear from Paul's letters that he slept and rested only as he needed. He was not slothful nor lazy when it came to sleeping and lounging around. Note why: he did not want to be chargeable to any man. What did he mean? Just what God says: that every minister and believer has the blood of the world upon his hands and will be held accountable for getting the message out to them — the message that they can be saved from death and receive eternal life.

Mat 7:26 “But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.”

John 4:35-36 “Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together.”

John 9:37-38 Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshipped him.

1 Cor 4:1-2 So then, men ought to regard us as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the secret things of God. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

1 Th 5:17-18 Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Tim 1:11-12 That conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me. I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Titus 1:3 And at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour.

Luke 12:47 “That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows.”

Ezek 33:8-9 When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself.

IX. 1 Thessalonians 02:10 Minister's Impeccable Life

The strong and true minister preaches and ministers with a clean life, an impeccable life. Paul says...

- that he lived a holy life before God: a life separated from the world and set apart totally to God.
- that he lived a just and righteous life before men: a life that loved and treated men just as God said and just as he wanted them to treat him.
- that he lived a blameless life before both God and man.

Acts 24:16 So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

1 Cor 4:16 Therefore I urge you to imitate me.

1 Cor 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

Phil 2:15 So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.

Phil 3:17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

Phil 4:9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

2 Tim 1:13 What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.

X. 1 Thessalonians 02:11 Minister's Tenderness

The strong and true minister preached as a father, tenderly giving direction. The minister is not only like a mother (see 1 Th. 2:7-8), but he is also like a father. Three fatherly functions are listed.

=> The minister encourages just like a father: directs, guides and teaches.

1 Cor 14:31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

1 Th 4:18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

1 Th 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1 Tim 4:11 Command and teach these things.

=> The minister comforts just like a father: encourages, consoles, supports, sustains, holds up, lifts up, relieves and eases pain.

Phil 2:1-2 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

2 Tim 4:2 Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

Titus 1:9 *He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Titus 2:15 *These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.*

=> The minister urges just like a father: testifies, witnesses, protects and warns.

Col 2:8 *See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.*

Col 4:17 *Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord."*

2 Tim 2:25 *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*

2 Pet 1:19 *And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.*

2 Pet 3:17 *Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position.*

XI. 1 Thessalonians 02:12 The Purpose of Ministry

The strong and true minister preaches and ministers with one objective — to lead his people to live worthy of the Lord. God has given us the most glorious promise imaginable: the wonderful privilege of living forever in His kingdom and glory. Therefore, we must live worthy of that promise. We must live excellent lives — live day by day just as we should live — honouring and building up the name of God.

Gal 5:16 *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*

Eph 4:1 *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

Eph 5:15 *Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise.*

Col 2:6 *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him.*

1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did. ■*