



DATE	August 27, 2017
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	The Invitation
SERIES	Jesus invites us to follow him, and His invitation is for everyone. Following Jesus isn't just obeying a set of rules; His way is much better than that. Learn what it means to "walk this way," and how we can experience change and freedom that will be evident to the world.

Introduction: In today's message in the series "Walk this Way" we learn that Jesus invites everyone to follow him and what that involves.

1. In general, what invitations have you given or received that have somehow impacted your life or the life of someone you know?
2. Read Galatians 5:1-6. In today's message, Pastor David identified 4 ideas that people commonly associate with following Jesus:
 - Set of rules
 - List of expectations
 - Attend Church
 - Give my money

Discuss the ideas listed above. How have you heard these ideas negatively expressed by people you encounter? Which ones do you personally identify with and why? Discuss Biblical responses to these ideas and share appropriate scripture passages.

3. Pastor David presented two lists related to the Old and New Covenant.

Old Covenant

- Set of rules (613 in Old Testament)
- Sacred men
- Go to the temple
- Centered on me

New Covenant

- A command (To love God and love others)
- Spirit of God
- Gathering to remember
- Focus on others

Discuss the different ideas from the two lists. Pastor David said we run into problems when we mix the two. As you compare the two lists, where do you see that mix occurring in general? Where is it personally difficult for you and how do you work through it? Share any scripture passages that you find helpful.

4. Pastor David emphasized Galatians 5:6 “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” As you consider the anger and hatred that appears to be so strong in our country at the moment what tangible expressions do you think the church should offer? What scripture passages support the tangible expressions that you propose?
5. Read Galatians 3:10, James 2:10 and Ephesians 5:1-2. What do the passages say to you about the ideas of Grace and Law? Which one do you lean towards the most? What helps you maintain balance?

Conclusion: Pastor David ended with the question: What does love require of you? As you reflect on that, how might you apply the answer to that question in your own life?