



DATE	September 17, 2017
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Vices and Virtues
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.

Despite conflicting worldly messages, *The Bible* clarifies that true freedom is a heart matter. We can't gain freedom through good behavior; rather, the freedom of having a Spirit-led heart produces the fruit of virtues.

1. David opened today's message describing his experiences with "Red Beard" and "Lou Ferrigno" and the consequences that followed. We all have our own encounters with behavior modification. Were these encounters successful in changing your behavior? Why or why not?
2. As we place rules and behavior modification systems in our homes, our schools, and our workplaces, how do we model inside-out freedom?
3. Proverbs 4:23 says "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." We are constantly surrounded by influences that could cause damage to the state of our heart. Consider some of these things you face on a regular basis. How do the following verses offer guidance for keeping our hearts focused on God?
 - Mark 14:38
 - 1 Timothy 6:11-12
 - Proverbs 14:16
 - Hebrews 4: 15-16
4. Reflect on the different categories of vices:
 - Sexual – "At least I'm not doing..."
 - Autonomy – "I'm in charge"
 - Unloving – "You hurt me"
 - Bad habits – "It's not that bad"

Compare this list to that of the virtues below and explore how the fruit of the Spirit can cancel out or overcome vices:

- From God: Love, Joy, Peace
 - Toward Others: Patience, Kindness, Gentleness
 - About Me: Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control
5. Discuss Pastor David's statement that the fruit of the Spirit is singular, not plural. How might this change your outlook or approach to walking by the Spirit?

6. Pastor David explained today that, as we surrender areas in our life to God, our heart will eventually impact our behavior. In Romans 7:14-25, Paul talks about the war within us. How do we reconcile David's statement with the idea that our actions don't always reflect what we want to do?
7. The message today stated that we are either walking or wandering. Read Luke 15:11-32. What circumstances led the prodigal son from wandering to walking? Do you think we all require drastic measures to turn our lives around?

As you go to prayer this week, consider asking God for freedom in an area of your life in which you are wandering.