

Staying Between The Ditches

Mat 7:13 *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it.*

14“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

The narrow way is not a steep trail heading up the mountain while the broad way is a highway going down. It is more like the narrow way is a path like a median going right through then middle of the broad way and you must constantly move against the flow. It can be like trying to enter a stadium while everyone is trying to leave.

I. Jesus was fully God and fully man

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

2He was in the beginning with God.

Hebrews 2:17 *Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

18For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

II. Faith and works

James 2:17 *so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.*

18 But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

Ephesians 2:8 *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;*

9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

III. Being in the world not of the world

1 John 2:15 *Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

John 17:15 *“I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from ^athe evil one.*

16“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

18“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Romans 6:15 *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be!*

16Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

IV. Following the Spirit and the Word

1 John 4:1 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*

2 Peter 3:15 *and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,*

16as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

15But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.

16For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ.

Imagine a room with Jesus in the center. Holy Spirit is light that illuminates him. Windows allow us to see him.

V. God's Sovereignty and Free Will

John 6:44 *“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,*