

# A PHILOSOPHY OF MEN'S MINISTRY

Calling Churchmen to Jesus' Mandate of Manliness

*June 7, 2025*

# GCW Men's Conference

## November 7-8, 2025



Pastor Terry Wragg

Terry Wragg has been serving in ministry for over 30 years and joined the ministry of Saving Grace Bible Church (Englewood, Florida) after serving for 17 years as pastor-teacher at Fellowship Bible Church in New Hampshire.

He previously served on the pastoral staff of Grace Community Church, under the ministry of Dr. John MacArthur, while completing his MDiv through The Master's Seminary. After graduating seminary in 2000, Terry, along with his wife Rebecca and their 3 children, moved to Xenia OH, where Terry was the Pastor-Teacher at First Reformed Church. In 2004, God moved the family to Jupiter, Florida, where Terry ministered at Grace Immanuel Bible church as a lay leader, director of the Institute of Grace, and adjunct professor at The Expositors Seminary. In 2007 Terry was called to pastor in New England.

Terry and Rebecca have two sons and one daughter who reside both in New England and Ohio with their respective spouses. God has blessed them with 8 grandchildren whom they cherish.

## Colossians 1:28-29

- **Teaching** and **admonishing** for **Christlikeness** are our priorities in ministry **to** men and **as** men as we lead the way in setting the tone and tempo of our discipling efforts.
- Remember, discipleship is followship; it is faithfulness to Jesus.

## Colossians 1:28-29

- We are humbly and willingly bowing to the work of the Holy Spirit to refine our hearts. God's truth purges the poison of self-deception to renew our minds in **God's view** of what we should value and live for.
- As long as we are on this earth and walking **with** the Lord Jesus, we are in the **process of overcoming** sin and self **in** the Lord Jesus.

## Colossians 1:28-29

- Our **walking with the Lord** toward our own spiritual maturity is the **baseline** for how we live in each area of life—as husbands, fathers, friends, brothers-in-Christ, employees, and as churchmen serving here among the body at Grace Church Williamsburg.
- Our growth in Christlikeness is what most defines us as men.
- What we are teaching and encouraging here at GCW as the main thing is for our men to take the **stewardship** of your maleness seriously and to step up to the spiritual plate to serve Jesus in His **mandate of manliness**.

*The focus groups found that young men feel they are in crisis: stressed, ashamed and confused over **what it means to be a man** in 2025. They vented about conflicting cultural messages of masculinity that put them in a "no-win situation around **the meaning of 'a man,'**" according to the SAM project memo.*

Source: Elena Schneider, *Politico*, reporting on a memo from the Speaking with American Men project (6/4/2025), emphasis added.

## Colossians 1:28-29

- You are answering that stewardship with a robust call to follow Jesus through your uncompromising commitment to **personal holiness** in your walk with Him.
- We need to invest in each other as followers of Jesus who live by His Word as His churchmen, beginning in our families and then extending to our church family.

## Colossians 1:28-29

- Verse 29 reveals Paul's motivation for all that he does: "*For **this purpose** also I labor, striving....*" What purpose? Dr. MacArthur pointedly sums up the purpose of all pastoral ministry: "The goal of ministry is the maturity of the saints."
- Doctrinal integrity is followed by practical obedience to that truth in godly living. And all for the purpose of becoming more like Jesus Christ.
- Notice how Paul will now build on this baseline in chapter 2 to encourage us in a **progressive** spiritual growth in our walk with the Lord.



## Colossians 2:6-7

- The progression Paul puts forward here is the normal way of our walk of grace—each of these elements reflect **growing** or **becoming** more like our Lord.
- Verse 7: To lead a life in Christ you need to build your life on the truth you're learning from Jesus:
  - The truth about Him
  - The truth about how to follow Him

## Colossians 2:6-7

- Don't let anyone persuade you with a Jesus-plus way of living.
- To walk with Jesus in this context of knowing who He is means that you hold fast and faithful to a **biblical Christology—a scripture-informed knowledge** of Jesus.

## Colossians 2:6-7

- What does **walking in Christ** consist of?
- It's a progression of you growing in Christlikeness based on three actions God has accomplished in you and then a lifestyle-response from you.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

1. *"Having been **firmly rooted**..."*

**God has once for all rooted you in Christ.** Notice that this is stated in the past tense.

With this spiritual rooting, God has begun a spiritual process in you.

Roots bring life to the plant. Your spiritual nourishment comes from your relationship with Christ. God has rooted you permanently in Christ; your fruit (the life you live) is the fruit of His life (character) at work in you.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

### 1. *"Having been **firmly rooted**..."*

In John 15 we have a similar analogy —Christ is the Vine, and we are the branches. The vine brings life to the branches, which in turn bear fruit consistent with the nature/character of the vine.

Notice what Paul says in Colossians 1:10—as we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord... **we will bear fruit in every good work.**

Spiritual fruit-bearing is the process we are in: Galatians 5:22.

**Our** life is **His** life in us; you are to live being defined by your relationship with Jesus.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

### 2. *"And being **built up** in Him..."*

This word translates "being built up." It is a rich word with the idea of being brought nearer to **fullness** or **completion**—it means to be **constructed further**. You are **God's work** in progress in that you still need further construction in Christlikeness.

Taking in God's Word teaches you to walk by faith with Jesus.

Knowing Him builds you up and brings you to greater spiritual fullness.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

3. *"Having been **established** in your **faith**..."*

**Established** = the idea of being **confirmed** or **stabilized** so that you are **settled** securely and unconditionally.

Your relationship with Jesus is established on the firm foundation of faith in Him so that you are working with Him on spiritually-solid, trustworthy ground.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

3. *"Having been established in your faith, **just as you were instructed...**"*

*"Just as you were **instructed**"* points us to the content of what makes up biblical doctrine—the teachings of Jesus, the prophets, and the Apostles—it's sound doctrine.

**Instructed** = the idea of teaching that seeks to shape the will of the learner. Your heart is informed and shaped by God's truth so that you can then exercise it in the direction of what is pleasing to God.



## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

4. "And **abounding** with **thanksgiving**."

Why is this so important?

Because **ingratitude** fosters

- apathy
- anger
- rebellion
- unbelief
- unkindness
- lack of concern
- discontentment
- moodiness
- irritability
- lack of commitment..., etc.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

### 4. "And **abounding** with **thanksgiving**."

Thankfulness helps you see the bigger picture of **God's goodness** and **sovereign control** over the issues of your life.

Being thankful to God **widens your gaze**; it **refines and focuses** your perspective about yourself and your situation.

Gratefulness takes your eyes off of you and puts your eyes on God.

You are thankful *for* Jesus and *to* Jesus.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

### 4. "And **abounding** with **thanksgiving**."

Thankfulness helps get you out of a **stubborn fixation** on yourself and your problems.

As you rehearse God's blessings in your walk with Jesus and as you worship Him as a good God doing good things in your life (even if you don't understand it all), you see, receive, and order your life by the **bigger picture** of God working **His** purposes in your life.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

### 4. "And **abounding** with **thanksgiving**."

Your gratitude to God **helps your heart stay grounded** in the bigger work of God in your life and in the life of the person you're helping/discipling, especially when it's messy, hard, demanding, and inconvenient.

The fact is that it's hard, messy, inconvenient, and self-denying work to be faithful to the Lord in helping others grown in their walk with Him.

But Jesus has commissioned us to lead the way—it's our role and our privilege.

## Colossians 2:6-7: **Walking in Christ**

How are we providing **instruction** and **encouragement** to each other so that we are becoming more obedient in coming around the bride of Christ to show and share Christ's love for Grace Church Williamsburg?

How am I making use of my masculinity, my maleness, my **church-man-ness** in safeguarding and serving Jesus as Lord of my heart and as Lord of Grace Church Williamsburg?

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