



*Pastor Gary Clark*  
*Sermon Guide Notes: May 10, 2026*

## **“Would the REAL Christ Follower Please Stand Up?”**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:1–13**

#### **One Sentence Sermon**

A real Christ follower boldly lives for Jesus with pure motives, genuine love, godly integrity, and complete trust in God’s Word.

#### **Main Verse**

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

“When you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

#### **Marks of a True Christ Follower**

#### **1. A True Christ Follower Has Courageous Faith**

#### **1 Thessalonians 2:1–2**

- Paul continued preaching even after suffering persecution.
- Genuine faith remains faithful under pressure.
- Trials reveal whether our faith is shallow or genuine.
- Courageous faith is not convenient faith.

**Key Thought:** “A tea bag does not reveal what is inside until it enters hot water.”



## **2. A True Christ Follower Has Pure Motives**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:3–6**

- Paul did not preach for fame, money, or recognition.
- God examines not only our actions, but our motives.
- Christ followers seek to please God—not people.
- Ministry should never be manipulative or self-serving.

**Key Thought:** “Man looks at appearance. God examines motives.”

## **3. A True Christ Follower Deeply Loves People**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:7–8**

- Paul compares his ministry to a loving and nurturing mother.
- Following Christ means loving people personally and sacrificially.
- Truth without love becomes cold and mechanical.
- People remember those who genuinely cared for them.

**Key Thought:** “People do not care how much we know until they know how much we care.”

## **4. A True Christ Follower Lives with Integrity**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:9–12**

Paul describes three marks of integrity:

- **Walk Devoutly**

Our walk before God.

- **Do Justly**

Our walk before people.

- **Live Blamelessly**

Our reputation before the world.



### **Key Thought:**

“A transformed heart produces a transformed life.”

## **5. A True Christ Follower Submits to God’s Word**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

- The Thessalonians received Scripture as the very Word of God.
- Transformation happens when we personally receive and obey God’s truth.
- God’s Word is living, powerful, and active in believers.

**Key Thought:** “Owning a Bible does not transform a life any more than owning medicine heals a sickness.”

### **3 Action Steps This Week**

#### **1. Stand Firm in Your Faith**

Choose courage when facing pressure, opposition, or discouragement.

#### **2. Examine Your Motives**

Ask God to purify your heart in how you serve and love others.

#### **3. Receive and Apply God’s Word**

Don’t just hear Scripture—live it out daily.

### **Read Ahead for Next Week**

Please read ahead in 1 Thessalonians 2:14-20 as well as Chapter 3, As we continue our study together.

### **Church Reminders**

Don’t forget to scan the **QR Code** for upcoming church events and announcements, including:

- **Spaghetti Dinner — May 29**
- **Civil War Battlefield Trip — June 5 & 6**

**Closing Blessing** “Go this week walking worthy of God—bold in faith, rich in love, steadfast in truth, and faithful to His Word. May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen.”



**For questions, prayer, or to connect with us:**

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