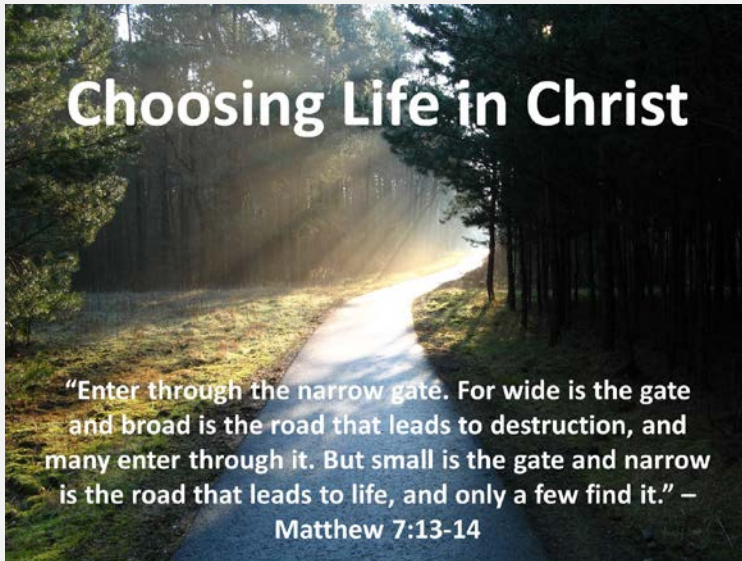


Faith Alive Church

Pastor/Mr. Tracy Headley



Taking the Narrow Way

“Enter through the *narrow gate*. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is *the gate* and *narrow* the road that leads to life and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14, New International Version - NIV

People are presented with two ways, represented by two gates—*one gate is narrow, the other is wide*. *Jesus commanded his followers to enter God’s Kingdom *only through the narrow gate*. This *gateway* is small, and the road is narrow, but it alone leads to life—eternal life. *Through the *wide gate*, however, the highway to hell is broad and *it seems* to be the easy way. There is plenty of room for many people to wander in and continue in whatever direction they wish - This road leads to hell, and eternal separation from God. *The gateway leading to life is small *not because* it is difficult to become a Christian but because there is *only one way* and *only* a few decide to walk that road. Believing in Jesus is the *only way* to eternal life because *he alone* died for our sins and made us right *before God, in Love*.

So Love is the *narrow way*, but some *believers* seem to think that walking *in love* is optional. Sometimes, we act as if we have the right to take offence if we want to...*or* act rudely and unkindly when we aren’t in a good mood. And we do it without ever realizing we are in sin. “Sin?” you *might think that’s a pretty strong word*.” And I *know* it is, but it’s the right word. **In short, sin is when we exercise our will - over God’s.** And if we are going to walk in the blessing and the abundant life of God, we’d better quit making excuses for it, *and* call it what it is, or we will be ‘weak and whiny’.

Love is God’s **commandment to us - It’s not His suggestion**. It’s *not* His preference - It’s *a* command. When we’re *not* walking in love, we’re in disobedience to that command - In *other* words, we’re in sin. **Jesus said in John 14:15 KJV** ¹⁵ If ye *love me*, keep my commandments.

We don’t *have to* go kill someone or commit adultery to be in disobedience to God and we don’t *have to* swear or cheat on our taxes. All the devil has to do to get us into sin; is *to* convince us *to* walk in selfishness, *to* put ourselves first and ignore others. **To put us on the road of destruction, all he has to do is get us to walk another way—any other way—than love.** I know that keeping the Command of love *sounds difficult*, and if we were doing it in our own strength it would be - In fact, it would be impossible.

But you’re not doing it in your own strength - You’re born again – You’re a new creation in Christ, right? You have a Savior who shed His blood so you can have the *life* and *love* of God inside you - *You* have been empowered by God Himself to love as He loves. Ephesians 6:10 NLT says; here is a final word: Be strong *with* the Lord’s mighty power.