

A Priceless Question

Amos 3:3



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, Tennessee 38351

Pastor David Buffaloe
731-845-6104
online at bibleteacher.org

FOCAL Read Together Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

The question that the Lord asks us today is one of seven questions that He asked His people Israel. The question is very profound, for it is a question that involves the WILL. **Can two walk together except they be agreed?** The word “**agreed**” (Niphal Perfect of the Hebrew word YAWAD : עָדָּ pronounced yaw-ad') refers to two parties who have made an appointment to meet with one another. The verse could be translated as “**Can two walk together without agreeing to meet?**” or as “**Do two walk together unless they have made an appointment?**”. For two parties to walk together they both must exercise their will in the *same direction*. They have to decide *when* they're going to meet, *where* they're going to go, *how* they're going to get there. If the decision of their will is not the same then they *will not* walk together.

The Bible makes it very clear that “**in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth**” (Genesis 1:1). God made the earth and all that is in it in six literal *twenty four* hour periods. God pronounced His Work to be “**good**” (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, et al) as He made the light, the trees and the various animals and creatures. Yet God did not rest nor did He declare creation “**very good**” until He created mankind. The Bible says:

Genesis 1:27-31 So **God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.** (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply,

and replenish the earth, and subdue it ... (31) And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God created man (husband and wife) in His “image” (TSELEM: צֶלֶם pronounced tseh'-lem). God made us to resemble Himself. We have freedom of will. The creatures of the earth were made by God for humanity to rule over, but humans – like God – have a freedom of will. Once God gave us freedom of will He placed mankind in the Garden of Eden and put a forbidden fruit in that Garden. Adam had the freedom to choose. He could have chosen right and righteousness by following the Lord his God. Instead Adam – exercising his will in a way that he shouldn't have – chose to follow the devil instead of following the Lord. His choice caused the fall of all into the death of sin. Can two walk together except they be agreed? No, they can't. Adam's misuse of the will caused the Lord to cast him and his wife out of Eden. You cannot walk with God unless your will and His will are in agreement. Can two walk together except they be agreed?

When people try to disprove the existence of God they usually make the statement:

“How can a loving God allow _____?”

and then they'll put some terrible thing in that blank. When we make this statement we're actually posing what you would call a *stupid question*. God gave us all a great gift when He created us with freedom of will. You have

free will. You have freedom to say “yes” to God or “no” to God. You have freedom to choose – this is a great and sacred trust. Over and over again in the Scripture the Lord calls to humanity and – in love – calls them to follow Him. Just as God warned Adam against choosing unwisely He warns us to realize that we do have freedom of choice. We are in His image, but if we want to walk with God we must choose to let our will be just as His will is. God told Israel before she went into the Promised Land:

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

We choose life when we choose to walk with God. But we cannot walk with God unless we both be agreed. Can two walk together except they be agreed? Just as you have the ability to choose, God has the ability to choose. Your wrong choice will not force God to walk with you. If you want to walk with Him then you need to agree with Him. Otherwise you walk alone!

1. You Must Agree With God On The Matter of Sin

FOCAL Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

No one can ever walk with God unless they agree with God on the matter of “sin”. Sin is considered by most people to be an antiquated, outdated concept that belongs in the dark ages of history. Postmodernism sets the will

of man above all else. I sought a definition of “postmodern” in the Webster's Dictionary, but all I found there was nonsense. Webster's says:

“of, relating to, or being a theory that involves a radical reappraisal of modern assumptions about culture, identity, history, or language”

Putting that into clear English that means **postmodernism redefines everything**. Whatever seems right and true to you is your truth and your personal right. You are right, because *being* right is all about *feeling* right. Truth is only found in how you *feel* about things. God is who you would like Him to be. There are no absolutes and EVERYTHING is relative. This is postmodernism. **Postmodernism rejects the value of rational thought, denies the existence of moral and spiritual absolutes, and affirms the right and power of the individual to invent his or her own "reality."**

The postmodern world deals with sin by **redefining** it (it is disease) or by **reassigning** it (it is someone else's fault). God tells us that **He wants to walk with us**, but He cannot until we **recognize** our sin and **repent** of it. Only then can the Lord **redeem** us so that we can **recover** and walk with Him.

Word Study You cannot walk with God unless you agree with Him on the matter of SIN. In the Old Testament God characterized sin (QATTAWA: קטאָוּ pronounced: khat-taw-aw') as a **crouching beast** when He warned Abel:

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, **sin lieth at the door...**

In the New Testament “sin” (HAMARTIA: αμαρτια pronounced ham-ar-tee'-ah) is portrayed as an employer who pays off his employees in **death**:

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death

The word “**sin**” literally means “**to miss the mark or miss the target**”. When you sin you miss the target every time.

God will not walk with you if you do not repent from sin. You will not find God's best for your life if you do not reject sin and decide to follow the Lord!

When the devil talked Adam into sinning and eating the forbidden fruit both Adam and Eve lost their relationship with God. **Can two walk together except they be agreed?** No, they can't. When God came to Adam and asked him what he did Adam responded:

Genesis 3:12 And the man said, **The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.**

Adam blamed God (**the woman You gave to be with me**) and the woman (**she gave me, and I did eat**). We do the same thing today. We sin and blame everyone else. We **reassign sin** as *genetic predisposition, a disease that*

we just happen to have, or as something that someone else did.

The Bible says that sin is what we are naturally *born in* as well as something we choose to do.

ILLUSTRATE Malcolm Muggeridge, a British apologist, once spoke of sin and its deception. Just after graduating from Cambridge, Muggeridge moved to India to teach English. In his early twenties, he strolled down to the nearby river. Bathing in rivers is common in India. In the early evening hours, the sunset light gliding through the trees, Muggeridge saw the silhouette of a woman bathing on the other side. His heart began to pound with "the wild unreasonableness which is called passion." Suddenly seized by lust he dove into the river so he could get a closer look. When he came out of the river on the other side he was horrified. The woman that he had lusted after was a leper. Her feet were deformed, her body twisted and covered with seeping wounds from that terrible disease. Her eye sockets were sunken, and her fingers short and rotting from her hands. Muggeridge quickly dove back into the river wracked with disgust. His disgust was not at the leper, for she could not help what she was. His disgust was at himself. He had never realized the condition of his own heart. We are all sinners capable of the worst types of evil. The diseases of the body are not nearly as hideous and grotesque as the diseases of the soul.

We are all sinners in need of the Savior. The Psalmist

David wrote:

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Because Adam fell in the Garden we are all born sinners. We are all *born sinners*. This is what the Bible tells us. We read:

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

We are all *born* sinners who need to be born again. We are all *doing* sinners who need to stop doing it. The only way we will ever walk with God is to *recognize* our condition and *repenting*, turn to the Redeemer Jesus Christ.

2. Neither You Nor I Will Get Better Until We Give Ourselves To The God of The Bible

FOCAL **Amos 3:3** Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Two cannot walk together except they be agreed. The two that this statement is referring to is **God and man**. How can God and man walk together?

First of all there must be a willingness of **the part of God** to *lower Himself* to where we are. We are finite creatures, but God is INFINITE. **How can we walk**

TOGETHER unless He lowers Himself? We can't, but God did! The Bible tells us

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.**

The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

It is God's desire to walk with us. He has made a way that sinners may walk with Him, but the Lord will not force that way upon any of you. **Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** (Revelation 13:18). Before the world was ever made, before man was ever formed of the dust of the ground, God knew that **we would betray Him.** He knew that man created would follow the voice of the serpent. God knew that the free will we would be given would be abused. He didn't make us imperfect, He made us perfect. We made ourselves imperfect when we chose to sin. And yet,

Romans 5:8-10 ... God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (9) Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. (10) For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

While we walked apart from God, refusing to follow Him, He chose to show us love anyway. God wants to walk with us. But before He can walk with us, we must also bend our will.

We must admit that we are sinners. We must admit that we are lost without Him. We must admit that – as good as God is – we have betrayed Him countless times. We must admit that there is no way that we can be saved but by believing on Jesus Christ.

You must give yourselves to the God of the Bible if you want to be saved. Isaiah speaks:

Isaiah 55:6-7 **Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: [7] Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.**

ILLUSTRATE As a young child I'd be playing in the woods near my house. As the sun would set I'd hear momma calling from the back porch, "David. David. Come home, it's time for supper". When I heard that cry I'd head toward her voice knowing that the darkness of the night – full of goblins and other creatures that could eat a little boy – would not invade that place we called "home".

Are you at home with Jesus? Are you walking with Him every day? **Can two walk together except they be agreed?** If you are not walking with God then **seek the Lord while He may be found.** Heed the call of Jesus as He whispers to your hearts, **come home.** You've heard the song,

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Come home, come home,
You who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me?

Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming,
Coming for you and for me.

O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me.

It is God's will that all be saved – but He has given you free will. You can hear Him and do as He says. You can come to Jesus repenting:

Acts 3:19-20 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; [20] And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

or you can rebelliously reject Him and cling to your own

lives. You can try to live by law of man or of God, but until you live by faith in Him you shall never walk with God.

How can a man be right with God? Only by believing in Jesus. How can a man walk with God? Only by living life through Jesus.

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. [17] For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.

The Lord has promised "to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Christ, seeing Jesus ever lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Saved to the uttermost! Saved by faith in Him. God has lowered Himself so that He can walk with you. You will never raise yourselves by law or by life to walk with God. You must accept His provision, the salvation that is available through faith in Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; [4] Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. [5] For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; [6] Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Do not believe that you can reject Jesus and – following postmodernism – do *whatever feels right*. The Bible is very clear that ..

God will never walk with those who do not follow Jesus.

Follow Him by faith. Live what He has said. Trust in His Word, and do as He says. **Can two walk together except they be agreed?** No. You must believe on Jesus!

3. After I Am Saved

FOCAL Amos 3:3 Can two walk **together**, except they be agreed?

Word Study The word translated "together" in our text is the Hebrew YACHAD (יחד) pronounced *yakh'-ad*). The word is used to show *how* two are to walk. If you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ then God expects you to **walk in unison with Him**. God's Israel was saved by believing on the Lord. God told Israel:

Amos 3:1-2 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying, [2] **You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.**

Those whom God has saved are **His adopted children**.

They are literally **bound to God for life**. God is our Father, and Jesus Christ our Savior and our intercessor. The Lord expects His children to walk together in love - love toward Him and love toward one another.

The believer is saved by faith in Christ. Once saved, God expects us to **walk with Him**.

Walking with God means that we are to *frequently* approach Him in prayer, and that we are to *diligently* read and believe His Word. As **C.H. Spurgeon** once said, "**Eat your way into the Word of God until your blood becomes biblical.**"

Avoid sin, and when you sin **recognize and repent of that sin**. Israel was going to be punished because she refused to walk with God. Remember that the Scripture says:

Hebrews 12:5-6 **And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: [6] For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

If you are in the family of God by faith then God expects you to **agree with Him**, and to walk with Him. **Dr. Billy Graham** once said - and I agree:

"I have no problem believing that the whale swallowed Jonah. I would even have believed it if

Jonah had swallowed the whale".

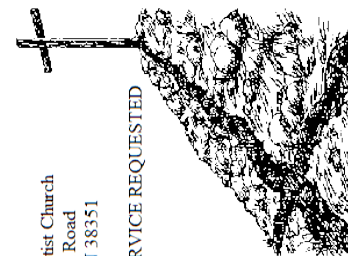
If you're born again by faith in Him the proof that you are born again is that *you walk together with God*. Not that you walk *arguing* with God, but *together*. God's children obey their Father, love their Father, and love one another.

If you are not walking with God

1 John 5:3-5 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. [4] For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith. [5] Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

but are walking with the world you need to examine your life. **Can two walk together except they be agreed?** No, they cannot. If you are not walking with God and God is not walking with you then may I recommend that you **recognize** and **repent** of your way of life, and call upon Jesus Christ your **Redeemer**, your **Random**, your **Righteousness**.

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



Rock Hill Baptist Church
605 Rock Hill Road
Lexington, TN 38351

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FOCAL Read Together Amos 3:3 Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

Genesis 1:1; Genesis 1:4, 10, 12; Genesis 1:27-31; Deuteronomy 30:19

1. You Must Agree With God On The Matter of Sin

Amos 3:3; Genesis 4:7; Romans 6:23; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12; Genesis 3:12

- The postmodern world deals with sin by _____ it (it is disease) or by _____ it (it is someone else's fault). God's tells us that **He wants to walk with us**, but He cannot until we _____ our sin and _____ of it. Only then can the Lord _____ us so that we can _____ and walk with Him.

-The word "sin" literally means _____

- The Bible says that sin is _____

2. Neither You Nor I Will Get Better Until We Give **Ourselves To The God of The Bible**

Amos 3:3; 1 John 4:14; Revelation 13:18; Romans 5:8-10; Isaiah 55:6-7; Acts 3:19-20; Romans 1:16-17; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Timothy 2:3-6

- How can a man be right with God? _____
_____ How can a man walk with God? _____

3. After I Am Saved

Amos 3:3; Amos 3:1-2; Hebrews 12:5-6; 1 John 5:3-5

Word Study The word translated "together" in our text is the Hebrew YACHAD (יחד pronounced *yakh'-ad*). The word is used _____
