

Walk in peace, pt 2

Matthew 28:18-20

MPS: Christ-followers are made new by Jesus to walk in God's peace.

OBJ: Every Christ-follower can walk in God's peace by recognizing three characteristics of our new identity as Missioner.

INTRO

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Cor 5:17

We are considering, "What does it mean to be "made new" by the gospel of Jesus Christ?" We looked at "living in love" in the realm of the heart, and the first two aspects of the Christian identity, Worshiper and Servant. God gives a new heart to know Him, and places His Spirit within us to live in His love. Christ-followers engage the heart to focus on relationship with God as Worshipers to grow and all-consuming love for Him, and engage the hands to focus on expression of life as Servants and meet needs in His name. [Christ-followers live in God's love when they live as Worshipers and Servants.](#)

Then, last week we looked at "walking in peace" in the realm of the mind, and the third aspect of a Christ-follower's identity, Disciple. Today we will complete "walking in peace" in the realm of the mind with the final aspect of every Christ-follower's identity, Missioner.

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And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt 28:18-20

This passage is known as the Great Commission. These are Jesus' final words to His disciples before He ascends into Heaven. These words are so important that they are recorded five times in the Gospel accounts. [Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47-48; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8) Every human author of a gospel account prioritizes these words of Jesus. [The Great Commission distinguishes the second realm in which Christ-followers relate to God, the realm of a renewed mind to walk in and proclaim His peace.](#)

The Great Commission teaches two vital truths about our identity as a Christ-follower. **First**, one must "be" a disciple to make disciples. We looked at what it means to be a Disciple last week. **Second**, every true disciple actively engages in making disciples through the gospel. [When a Christ-follower lives as a Disciple and Missioner, they walk in God's peace and labor to proclaim God's peace to all people through the gospel of Jesus Christ.](#)

ILLUS The Identity / Ethos Principle (Centripetal force / Centrifugal force)

The Principle of Identity / Ethos also applies in the realm of the renewed mind: The One that centers your life will determine how you live your life. The peace we have with God through the gospel daily returns us to Jesus to apply it to every area of life, and share the good news of peace that He gives to all who believe. [Walking in God's peace means a Christ-follower remembers Jesus is our peace \(Disciple\), and goes forth to share Him with others \(Missioner\).](#)

Disciple

Disciple is the third aspect of the Christ-follower's identity because God's purpose in salvation reverses sin's curse imposed upon our mind. [Disciple forms the third aspect of a Christ-follower's identity to learn and follow God's will because we have the mind of Christ.](#) (1 Cor 2:16)

A Disciple 'engages the mind' to focus on AUTHENTICITY of new life in Jesus by renewal of the mind. Our identity as Disciple combines two meanings to create a new reality. A Disciple is only made when the combined qualities of "learner and follower" practice the rhythm of "trust and obey". Self-denial and suffering become a regular practice in the midst of gospel transformation.

If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. Luke 9:23

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

Walking in God's peace first means that Disciples grow in Authenticity of new life through gospel transformation that renews the mind to discern God's will and walk in His peace.

A Disciple walks in God's peace by applying the gospel to every area of life in **four dimensions of the mind / thinking**. These dimensions include **thinking as "knowledge"** which is basic, factual information. The second dimension is **thinking as the "perspective of knowledge"** where we gain comprehension and meaning, and begin to recognize different levels of knowledge and knowledge takes on new perspectives. The third dimension is **thinking as a "pattern of processing knowledge"** which addresses thinking patterns and deals specifically with how you process information to make decisions, form attitudes and convictions or draw conclusions for action. The fourth dimension includes **thinking as wisdom** where all aspects combine for right application for obedience to Jesus. **A Disciple applies the gospel in every area of the mind / dimension of thinking in order to continually walk in God's peace.**

Everyone tells us how to think. A Disciple seeks to think in accordance with God's Word by reading, meditating and studying Scripture to know what it says, comprehend what it means, understand why it matters and apply it to walk wisely. Embracing truth by faith causes a change of the mind, the essence of repentance. A Disciple 'engages the mind' because the gospel encompasses the totality of our thinking; "what we think", "what we think about what we think", "how we think about what we think", and "how we apply to action what we think about". A Disciple embraces Jesus by faith as God's living truth (learner) and worthy of obedience (follower). **Disciples walk in God's peace by applying the gospel to every area of life in order to trust and obey Jesus.**

TRANS The Great Commission teaches that the second characteristic of a true disciple of Jesus is one that actively engages in making disciples. Just as a Christ-follower's serving flows out of a right relationship as they "live in God's love", so living to share the gospel as Missioner flows from a right relationship as Disciple as they "walk in God's peace". This brings us to our fourth and final aspect of a Christ-follower's identity, Missioner.

Missioner

Missioner is the fourth aspect of a Christ-follower's identity because God's purpose in salvation sends his people as faithful witnesses in the world. A Christ-follower as Missioner seeks to share Jesus as the truth of God's Word, in which they walk, with the world to know hope and peace. We must read all the gospel accounts of our commissioning to understand our purpose. **God sends Christ-followers as Missioners because we are His witnesses.**

A Missioner 'engages the feet' to focus on Jesus' MISSION of making disciples of all people. Each gospel account provides insight into our identity as Missioner. Christ-followers must embrace **three characteristics** of our new identity as Missioner.

First, Jesus gives Christ-followers a new purpose for life. When the gospel takes hold of our mind / thinking, we conclude that we no longer live for ourselves, but for Him who died for us.

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one had died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

2 Cor 5:14-15

This new purpose for the Christ-follower's life also gives a new perspective on the world, a new worldview.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh, even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 2 Cor 5:16

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:17-20

“Made new” in Jesus Christ is “reality-altering”, with God and with people in the world. Peace with God clarifies our purpose in this world. We become Ambassadors of peace with God, to persuade and labor for people to be reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. [Christ-followers walk in peace under Jesus’ authority to “live sent” as His Ambassador.](#)

Q? What has Paul done in 2 Corinthians 5? He’s demonstrating how to “think” the gospel at every level of our thinking so that it brings about transformation through renewal of the mind.

Second, Jesus compels us to proclaim and persuade others of peace with God. We bear witness to peace with God through Jesus. The Missioner’s message of “peace” is the reality in which we live. We live to persuade the whole world to believe in Jesus for peace with God.

as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. Eph 6:15

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace Isaiah 52:7

[Clothed with Jesus through the gospel primes a Christ-follower with “readiness” and “urgency” to “Go”.](#)

TRANS One of the best ways Missioners persuade people to believe in Jesus is to invite and bring them alongside us as we walk in His peace. This leads us to the third characteristic.

Third, Jesus commissions us to make disciples. Relationship with God that is making us more like Him leads us to form intentional relationships with other people for the same reason. We lead others to walk in God’s peace through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus gives His authority for us to go and make disciples. When we try to use it for any other means, we place ourselves in opposition to His will.

Paul says the church is the principle “relational-place” where disciples get made.

to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,...

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. Eph 4:12-16

Jesus builds His church when each and every Christ-follower engages in disciple-making. Disciple and Missioner are not qualities for spiritual elites, but essential aspects of every Christian’s life. Disciples don’t get made outside the church. They get made BY the church when Missioners persuade others through the gospel to believe in Jesus as God’s peace. Missioner is not something “opposite” or “other than”, but the way a Disciple relates to people in the world. We proclaim God’s peace in Jesus to the whole world because we walk daily in it. [Christ-followers live as Missioners to share the gospel and make disciples of all people.](#)

Whoever captures souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

A Christ-follower walks in God’s peace through a gospel-renewed mind. God’s truth commands life through the gospel as we live under Jesus’ authority and for His glory. We walk in God’s peace because we are now citizens of His Kingdom and live under King Jesus. Jesus makes us Ambassadors of His kingdom to go and tell the world of the peace of His Kingdom, and invite them to come walk in it too. Peace eternal with God, and among men on earth. [God commissions Christ-followers to live as Disciple and Missioner, to proclaim the peace that Jesus gives with God through the gospel, and labor for that peace for all people.](#)

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