

# Real Christ-follower: Worshiper & Servant

Matthew 22:37-40

**MPS** Jesus makes every person who trusts in Him by the gospel a new creation to center our whole life on Him.

**OBJ** Every person can understand the new identity of a real Christ-follower by four core elements.

**INTRO** I did one of the scariest things in life this week; I went for my annual eye exam. I have to be honest with you, there is nothing scarier in the world. They tell you, “Don’t blink, we’re going to blow a small puff of air in your eye.” Then, all I can do is blink. But, eye exams are important because clear vision is important.

**Q?** How clearly do you see your Christian life? WHY is it important for a Christian to see and watch their life in Christ, to know WHO they are in Christ? In a culture where it is easy to adopt a label with little meaning, and is becoming increasingly confusing about what it means, it’s critical that we understand what it means to follow Jesus.

**Jesus makes every person who trusts in Him by the gospel a new creation to center our whole life on Him.**

When Jesus saves us, He changes us. We are made a new creation in Christ Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) **But what does it mean to be “made new”?** “Made new” means that our life is now “In Christ”. **Two passages shape a faithful understanding of this new identity in Christ.** Today we will consider the first of these two passages found in Matthew 22:37-40, known as the Great Commandment.

**READ** Matthew 22:37-40 **The Great Commandment**

*And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”* **Matthew 22:37-40**

**OBJ** **Four Core elements shape our new identity as a Christ-follower**, and how we are to live for Him. Today we will look at the first two Core Elements.

When the Pharisee asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment, he only wanted to trap him. But Jesus knew better. Jesus answered the Pharisee by affirming his knowledge, while rebuking his unbelief. Jesus cited the law in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 when He quoted the greatest command to love God with one’s whole being. Ironically, the Pharisee would have been familiar with this passage as the great Shema Israel. Love for God was the center for all life for the Jew. But love for God is far more than how we feel about Him, what we know about Him, or what we do for Him. Jesus taught what the Law really meant, which exposed the hypocrisy of the Pharisee. **Love for God centers all of life when He becomes the all-consuming glory of one’s whole devotion.**

**The first core element of a Christ-follower’s identity in Christ is that we are a WORSHIPER.**

**God created people in His image.** His created purpose was for people to display a unique glory in the world through a special relationship with Him. But sin separated us from God so that we do not and cannot display His glory nor declare His praise. In sin, we suppressed the truth, failed to honor God, were darkened in our thinking, and exchanged His glory for false glory by worshiping creation instead of Him, the Creator. In sin we are spiritually dead and at enmity with God. But sin did not change God’s purpose to display His glory in the earth. Jesus came and died for sin to show God’s love that we might be born again, re-made. By God’s grace in Jesus Christ, when we believe in Him by faith, we receive His forgiveness and cleansing from sin, to be made new in His likeness. The “new” that we become in Jesus is completely different from the “old”, which is now gone. (2 Cor 5:17) **As a new creation, we are no longer at enmity with God but are now a Worshiper of God.**

In Christ, Holy Spirit comes to live in us so that our whole being becomes consumed with God’s love to declare His praise. All creation gives praise to God, but only people are designed to glorify Him in the uniqueness of relationship. All creation



obeys the Lord, but only people ascribe worth and praise to Him as Lord in all of life. All creation displays His glory, but only people in relationship with God through Jesus Christ serve to lead others to Him as royal priests of His Kingdom. [In salvation, Jesus becomes the center of our life so that His glory centers all of our living.](#)

[We are Worshipers because we've been made new in a Relationship with God for His glory.](#) [VALUE] Relationship with God is not determined by who we are, but who He is, and not by what we have done, but what He has done. This becomes very important today when we consider that knowing God is not about an emotional experience or vocabulary, nor a therapeutic breakthrough, and it isn't an intellectual accomplishment. The Bible defines our relationship with God by a covenant. In foretelling this covenant, the prophet Ezekiel states,

*"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules."* **Ezekiel 36:26–27**

#### [Four Qualities of our identity as a WORSHIPER:](#)

1. [We are given a new heart to know God.](#) Those who are "In Christ" know God. We know Him for who He is because He has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ. This was the radical nature of what Jesus was saying to the Pharisee, who knew about God but did not know God. Jesus says, "relationship with God is greater than religion", and "knowing God is better than knowing about God". [God gives us a new heart so we will know Him, and to live as Worshipers to ascribe the honor and glory that He is worthy of!](#)

2. [God the Holy Spirit lives in us.](#) God puts His Spirit in our new heart so that He is always with us. We are the Temple of God on earth, the dwelling place of Holy Spirit. This is how God proves that we are not to go perform for Him, but that He lives in us. Holy Spirit shows us the Living Word to counsel, guide, and empower us in God's will and glory.

3. [We demonstrate God's love and His glory in the world by obeying His commands.](#)

The Apostle John writes (1 John 5:3), "*For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.*" Not only do we live in God's love through Jesus Christ, but God's love is alive in us. Obedience to God's Word is not our power exerted for Him, but His power alive in us. We demonstrate the power of God's love when we trust in Him to obey His Word.

4. [We live for God's glory by serving His purpose to make His Name known.](#)

Peter writes (1 Peter 2:9); "*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*" By His love, God fills His people with His knowledge and presence on earth to declare His praise on earth. We are created in God's image to serve His purpose on earth. We are redeemed into Jesus' likeness to worship His Name as supreme above all others.

[As Worshipers, we grow an all-consuming love for God that transforms and motivates us to live for Him by the truth of the gospel.](#)

#### [The second core element of a Christ-follower's identity is SERVANT.](#)

Jesus did a radical thing in the passage of the Great Commandment by combining two laws of synergized importance that had never been done before; he inseparably linked Deuteronomy 6:5 with Leviticus 19:18. In doing this, Jesus teaches that how we truly love God is revealed in how we love others. THIS was how the Pharisees MISSED real relationship with God. They loved God by loving themselves first, the opposite of how God revealed Himself in Jesus. This is how so many miss God today too; they love self first and more than anything else. [When you fail to love God first with all your being, you will not love others AS yourself, but you will love others and all things FOR yourself.](#)

Jesus taught that those who loved God would show God's love to others as God has shown His love for them. In other words, when we live as Worshipers, one who lives in God's love for His glory and purpose, we live as a servant for others to come to know God's love that consumes our life. As Jesus came and took on flesh to reveal God to us, so He has redeemed us to reveal God, though not perfectly, to others as well. We are given His Holy Spirit to empower our lives. This is not to live the life we choose, but the life He has ordained for us, one as "*a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,*



a people for his own possession”, as Peter states. **Every person made alive unto God in Christ Jesus is given a unique Expression of life to glorify God.**[VALUE]

**Four Qualities of our identity as a SERVANT:**

- 1. We live as servants because Jesus served us to save us for His glory.** Mark 10:45 states, “*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” The One who came to give us life with God came to serve. It is His likeness into which we are made. If we are to be like Jesus, we must live as servants of Jesus. If we’ve truly been changed by God’s love in Jesus Christ, we will live to make His love known. **Jesus our Master is our motivation to live as a Servant.**
- 2. We live as servants by the same humility and obedience that Jesus modeled for us.** Philippians 2:5-7 tells us that Jesus humbled Himself to be obedient to the Father. Jesus gladly humbled himself and obeyed the Father because he was perfectly filled with God’s love. The more our lives are filled with God’s love, the more humility and obedience will fill our lives too, because this is the way of the true servant. **Jesus our Master is our model to live as a Servant.**
- 3. Jesus has gifted every Christ-follower with grace to serve by Holy Spirit.** The way Jesus wants you to live as a servant is in accordance with the way He created you, for the purpose He redeemed you, and by the way He has gifted you to glorify Him. Your life, Christ-follower, is a divine recipe for God’s glorious purpose when you live by faithful expression of all that God has given to you for the glory of His Name. The more we follow Jesus, the more we come to see our whole life for His purpose and glory. And the more we gladly give of ourselves by the power of His love flowing through us to help others come to know and grow in God’s love. **Jesus our Master has given each one gifts to serve other and show God’s love.**
- 4. When we live as Servants, we live in God’s purpose for our life.** By the way we live to serve others, by the good deeds we do for Him, and by the way we give of ourselves, God uses us to lead and bring others to Christ. Living as a Servant is not only about what we do, but also how we do all that we do to make sure the whole world knows what God has done for us in Jesus. **Christ-followers seek to live as servants so that when the world sees our good deeds, they glorify and praise God.**

HOW we live as Servants to the world reveals what we truly believe and understand about our relationship with God. **As Christ-followers, we are Servants who engage the hands to show God’s love by serving others and meet needs in Jesus’ name.**

**Jesus makes every person who trusts in Him by the gospel a new creation to center our whole life on Him.**

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*For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; <sup>15</sup>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**

Have you concluded that “one has died for all”?

Have you surrendered to no longer live for yourself, but for Him who died for you?

