

**Series: Standing Firm
“The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace”
Ephesians 6:15**

Big Idea – I need to have a firm footing to stand firm against the attacks of the devil.

Intro – the purpose of the Roman soldier’s footwear was to give him stability in the battle, the ability to stand fast or run forward, to defend or attack.

So for the believer, the shoes of the Gospel of peace produce:

STABILITY

Peace with God

"There is no peace for evil people, says the Lord." Isaiah 48:22

“we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ” Romans 5:1

Before we trusted Jesus Christ, we were enemies of God (Romans 5:10; 8:7)

“...there is no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus...” Romans 8:1

“Condemnation” means that God declares us sinners, which is a declaration of war.

Justification means that God declares us righteous, which is a declaration of peace, made possible by Christ's death on the cross.

"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Ps. 85:10).

"Because the Law worketh wrath" (Romans 4:15), nobody condemned by the Law can enjoy peace with God.

When you are justified by faith, you are declared righteous - the Law cannot condemn you.

“Peace with God” means that God is on my side so I do not have to fear anything or anyone.

“The LORD is on my side, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?” Psalm 118:6

“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes.” (Psalm 118:8-9)

Peace with God gives us supreme confidence and a firm footing on which to stand.

Peace with other believers

“I beg you to walk worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults in love.

Work at keeping the unity of the Holy Spirit, binding yourselves together in peace.” Ephesians 4:1 – 3

He’s not talking here about peace at any price, but the peace coming from the Holy Spirit of God Who indwells every believer.

“I work at having a conscience without offense toward God and men.” Acts 24:16

1 Thessalonians 5:12 “Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.

13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work, and live peacefully with each other.”

Peace in the local body of Christ, the church, comes when believers properly honor the leaders of the church, rather than picking favorites and dividing over personalities like they did in the church at Corinth.

So, first of all, having the gospel of peace gives you confidence, stability, a firm footing so you are able to stand and share the good news of the Gospel.

The second thing represented here by the “shoes of the Gospel of peace” is Soul-winning.

SOUL-WINNING

We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel of peace with a lost world. The most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. God wants us to have "beautiful feet"

Beautiful feet

Isaiah 52:7 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!"

Not a coincidence that Paul quotes this in Romans 10:15. Satan has declared war, but you and I are ambassadors of peace

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and himself, and God gave us the work of telling everyone about the peace we can have with him.

19 God was in Christ, making peace between the world and himself. In Christ, God did not hold the world guilty of its sins. And he gave us this message of peace.

20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

Busy feet

Psalms 126:6 "He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

1. Busy feet - goes
2. Burdened heart – weeping, with compassion
3. Bible message – sowing seed (the Word of God)
4. Blessed results – rejoicing, bringing sheaves with him

Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the person who wins souls is wise."

Daniel 12:3 "Those who are wise will shine as bright as the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever."

We represent Jesus Christ

“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” John 20:21

If sinners reject us and our message, it is Jesus Christ who is actually rejected. John 15:18 “If the world hates you, know that it hated me before it hated you.

Romans 1:14 “I am debtor...(to all peoples)

Romans 1:15 “I am ready...(to spread the good news)

Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.”

All nationalities – no supremacy here – no one race is better than another

Like black evangelist Tom Skinner liked to say, “the problem is sin, not skin.”

What a great privilege it is to be heaven's ambassadors to the rebellious sinners of this world!