

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE SANDALS OF PEACE

1. When have you felt like you have been stepped on with cleats? What was that like for you? What is the normal reaction to that kind of negative experience, and how does Paul's instruction call for believers to respond?
2. The Roman "man kneeling begging for mercy" hobnail pattern was a way of leaving a message of hate and dominance for people. How can you leave footprints of peace where you live? Where you work? In your family? In your church?
3. Footwear is important. Read Psalm 73 and relate a time when your feet nearly slipped or did slip and God saved you. How did that unfold for you, and what did you learn?
4. Roman sandals needed attention and repair to keep them in working condition. What needs some work or repair in your life right now? How and when will you accomplish that? Whose help do you need? Will you ask?
5. Footwear is foundational. How is the concept of peace foundational to the Gospel? Or is it? Read and discuss Matthew 10:34. How does that text square with what Paul is saying in Ephesians 6 and what Jesus said in John 14:27 ff?
6. Paul uses the terms "fitted" and "readiness" when he talks about the sandals (Ephesians 6:15, NIV). How well, and/or comfortable of a fit does the Gospel have in your life and experience right now? What needs to be either tightened up or loosened up a bit to make the fit better? How does the Gospel make you "ready" for life?
7. New footwear is often stiff and uncomfortable. How, was that true for you when you began to discover the Gospel? Or was it? How did the stiffness reduce during the "break-in" times in your life?
8. Some believers become "Textual Terrorists" who super-aggressively press their texts and beliefs on others. Share how you could help them change that approach to a more peace-filled walk. How might you be in danger of becoming a "Textual Terrorist" with a huge hobby-horse?
9. Paul's illustration with the sandals took a known negative and turned it into a positive. What negatives are there in your community, church, work place, or home that you can help turn into positives? How can you do that? Who can help you? What is your plan?
10. In terms of a percentage, what is your PQ (Peace Quotient) right now? What needs to happen to increase your PQ? How can you actively raise your own PQ and the PQ of those around you? Jot down a plan on the back of this sheet.
11. Sandals need to be laced up and tied to fit well and to be effective. Laces are little things, but vital. List some of the "spiritual laces" that keep your sandals of peace snugly in place. How do you find peace in your life?

Some of my "spiritual laces" are:

12. Paul says, “take your stand...be able to stand your ground...stand...stand firm...” in Ephesians 6:10-14. On what issue/s do you need to take a stand in your life and experience right now? When and how will you do that? Look at and discuss peace-filled.



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