

Does the shoe fit you?

Props: 5 different kinds of shoes: Sneakers, Running, Flip Flops, Combat and Baby shoes. I need as many other pairs of shoes on the platform that I can get...LOTS of shoe boxes...

The Bible has much to say about shoes.

How the shoe resembles our lives: (hold up a dress shoe)

- Every shoe has a maker
- Every shoe is made for a purpose
- Every shoe has a tongue, eyes, and a sole
- For repairs it has to go to the right person
- The hide was provided by a sacrifice

Ruth 4:7-10 (NIV) Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party **took off his sandal (shoe)** and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel. {8} So the kinsman-redeemer said to Boaz, "Buy it yourself." And **he removed his sandal.**(shoe) {9} Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. {10} **I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife,** in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from the town records. Today you are witnesses!"

- Boaz takes off his shoe as a binding contract to buy land from Elimelech.
- By taking off his shoe as a testimony this also confirmed that he was redeeming his bride.
- That shoe was a testimony to all Israel that Boaz was redeeming Ruth to be his Bride.
- God spoke to Moses from a burning bush...told him to TAKE OFF his sandals, the place he was standing was Holy Ground.
- So, as I read these customs of the Bible, and the testimony of this shoe, I began to think how shoes represent the Christians of today.
- See if you can recognize any of these as CHURCH MEMBERS???

1. THE SNEAKERS

- The **SNEAKERS** think they can sneak by with their sin like David did with Bathsheba.
- Ananias and Sapphira tried to sneak money out of the kitty to hoard it up for themselves. Acts 5
- Achan hid the money and garments in his tent thinking that no one else would find it. Joshua 7

John 10:1 (NIV) "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.

- Some people think that they can **sneak** in on Momma's skirt tail
- Other feel that if they join the church ...they can **sneak** in
- Even others think that if they are baptized many times...they can **sneak** their way into heaven.

2. THE RUNNING SHOES

Some Christians are RUNNING from GOD like **Jonah**.

Some Christians are RUNNING to GOD like **Zacchaeus**.

Some Christians are RUNNING for GOD like **Paul**.

Thank GOD for these saints!!!

3. THE BABY SHOES

In every church there are some **Christians** wearing baby shoes.

The Apostle Paul said in **1 Corinthians 3:1** (NIV) Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ.

- A baby always cries for attention
- Never wants to change even when dirty
- And always wants the milk.

Hebrews 5:12-14 (NIV) In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. **You need milk, not solid food!** {13} Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. {14} But **solid food is for the mature**, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

4. THE FLIP FLOPS

- This group makes promises that they never keep.
- They say they will show up...but never do.
- Sign up and never show up!
- They are for you one day...and not the next
- God sent them this week...next week he sent them across town...
- Just like **Peter told CHRIST**, "**You can depend on me**" yet he denied Christ three times before the cock crowed.
- Before their night was over, **he "did a flip-flop."**

Matthew 21:28-31 (NIV) "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' {29} **"I will not,"** he answered, but **later he changed his mind and went.**

{30} "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, **'I will, sir,' but he did not go.**

{31} "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

5. THE COMBAT BOOTS

- **Christians should be wearing combat boots with steel toes...**
- There is something wrong when you attend church and don't get your toes stepped on from time to time.
- It is those who are **wearing flip flops...that get their feeling hurt.**
- Those wearing **combat boots...are strong and tough**
- They are **glad** you are getting them out of their comfort zone...
- And **on the meat of the word...**
- They **don't get offended...**they become strong warriors.

QUOTE: "He who conquers himself is the mightiest warrior."

I like these that know and understand we are in a battle.

LORRENZO: You will always hurt people.

Not capable of loving no one, but yourself.

You will never be nothing.

You will always be in trouble.

You will always be a dope boy.

You will be locked up the rest of your life.

Someone is going to kill you.

You are crazy.

Playboy, hustler, pimp, player, womanizer, manipulative, conniving, self-centered.

You don't care about no one but yourself.

You need to get a job.

You are irresponsible.

You are childish and need to grow up.

You will never change.

BUT - GOD called us to raise the dead, heal the sick, and defeat the devil:

"Devil, these boots are made for walking and I'm gonna walk all over you."

Luke 9:62 (NIV) Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God."

WHAT KIND OF SHOES ARE YOU WEARING????

LORRENZO:

I am a child of God.

I am a branch of the true vine,

I AM a conduit of Christ's life.

I am a friend of Jesus.

I have been justified and redeemed.

My old self was crucified with Christ,

I am no longer a slave to sin.

I have been set free from the law of sin and death.

I am a JOINT heir with Christ.

In Christ Jesus, I have - - -

wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

I am a new creature in Christ.

I have been set free in Christ.

I am chosen, holy, and blameless before God.

I have been predestined by God to obtain an inheritance.

Because of God's mercy and love, I have been made alive with Christ.

I have been made complete in Christ.

God loves me and has chosen me.

DOPE BOY – CHURCH BOY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

WHAT KIND OF SHOES ARE YOU WEARING????

- A. SNEAKERS
- B. RUNNING
- C. FLIP FLOP
- D. BABY SHOES
- E. COMBAT BOOTS

1 John 5:4 - For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

Reading this verse reminds me that, all who love Jesus, are already victorious.

Throughout every struggle in life, we can be calmed knowing that the outcome has already been determined and we are on the winning side.