

# The Discipleship Wheel Illustration

## Chapter Two Christ, The Center

Last Revised: 2/8/2012

### Scripture Memory

II Corinthians 5:17

*Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

### Goal

Draw the Discipleship Wheel Illustration

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night.  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray;  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light!  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
Amazing love! How can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

Charles Wesley

## Christ, The Center

**II Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**Walt Henrichsen:** “One of the men on The Navigators staff is a Jamaican. Some years ago he worked for a banana company near his home town of Kingston (in Jamaica). He was doing so well in the company that one day one of the executives invited him into his office to discuss his future. After assessing the young man’s potential, the executive said, ‘You have a great future with our company, with excellent prospects for rapid promotion. But we are looking for committed men. If you are going to be a success, I want you to know that you will have to give your life in exchange for bananas.’ The young man thought about it for a few moments and decided that he could not sign away his life for bananas. Lordship involves giving Jesus Christ the number one place above all the possible ‘bananas’ in your life.” (Walt Henrichsen, Disciples Are Made Not Born, Victor Books, 1974, page 19.)

- I. What do you think is the context of II Corinthians 5:11-21?

*11 Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences.*

*12 We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, that you may have an answer for those who take pride in appearance, and not in heart.*

*13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.*

*14 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died;*

*15 and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*

*16 Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.*

*17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

*18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,*

*19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against*

### CREATE, CREATION, CREATOR, CREATURE

Noun – *ktisis* ^2937^, primarily "the act of creating," or "the creative act in process" ... In 2 Cor. 5:17 the reference is to what the believer is in Christ; in consequence of the creative act he has become a new creature. (Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985.)

**Mark 13:19**

**Romans 1:25**

**I Corinthians 11:9**

**Ephesians 2:10**

**Ephesians 3:9**

**Ephesians 4:24**

**Colossians 1:16**

**Colossians 3:10**

**I Timothy 4:3**

**Revelation 4:11**

**Revelation 10:6**

*them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

*21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**II.** Using a dictionary, define the following words:

A. *new*

B. *creature*

C. *old*

**III.** What do the following phrases mean?

A. *in Christ*

B. *old things have passed away*

C. *behold new things have come*

IV. Many feel that becoming a Christian is taking on a new lifestyle and rejecting the old lifestyle.

A. How do the following verses define becoming a Christian?

1. I Peter 1:23

2. Romans 8:14-17

3. Romans 9:26

4. Galatians 3:26

B. The phrase “born again” is seen in many circles as being a hokey or country term. Read the following passages and reflect.

1. In the following verses what is the view of the Holy Spirit as it pertains to this term?

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- a. John 3:3, 7  
3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*  
7 *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'*
- b. I Peter 1:3-5  
3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*  
4 *to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*  
5 *who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
- c. I Peter 1:22-23  
22 *Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,*  
23 *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.*
2. According to the following passages, what characterizes the born again disciple?
- a. I John 2:29: *If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.*

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- b. I John 3:9: *No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.*
  
  - c. I John 4:7: *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*
  
  - d. I John 5:1: *Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God; and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*
  
  - e. I John 5:4: *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.*
  
  - f. I John 5:18: *We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him and the evil one does not touch him.*
- V. By becoming a Christian, we are born again. We are new; we are not the person we once were. It is not that we simply come into a contractual relationship with God whereby we now get into heaven. When we become a Christian, we become a new person; and the Lord Jesus Christ comes to reside in us.

- A. Also, God now resides in us. How do the following passages reflect this truth?
1. Romans 8:9: *However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*
  
  2. I Corinthians 3:16: *do you not know that you are a temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*
  
  3. I Corinthians 6:19-20:  
*19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?  
20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*
  
  4. II Corinthians 6:16: *Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I will dwell in them and walk among them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*
  
  5. Colossians 1:27: *to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*



## 6. Revelation 22:20-21

20 *He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly."  
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

21 *The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.*

- C. A common statement in the testimony among Christians concerns a time in their life when they "made Christ Lord." Do we make Christ Lord or is this rather a divine attribute?
- D. If Christ is simply Lord and we do not make Him Lord regardless of our actions, what then is a more accurate way of expressing the concept that is being articulated by the phrase "make Christ Lord"?
- E. Many feel that when they become Christians, they become free agents, provided with a ticket guaranteeing entrance to heaven but free to decide if Jesus is to be their Lord in their day-to-day actions here on earth. How do the following verses speak to this?
1. Acts 26:18: *to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.*

## 2. Romans 6:16-18

*16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?*

*17 But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,*

*18 and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

3. Colossians 1:13: *For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.*

- F. How is the concept of the lordship of Christ expressed in the Discipleship Wheel Illustration?

**VI. Application**

- A. In the Discipleship Wheel the hub represents the power source of the Christian life. How does II Corinthians 5:17 apply to this concept of Christ being the power source of the life of the disciple?

*II Corinthians 5:17: Therefore, if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

- B. How does this reality of Christ as the power source in the life of the disciple play out in terms of our reaction to the storms of life?

**LeRoy Eims:** “We were at the breakfast table at our home in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1957 when Bob Stephens, a young man who lived with us, startled us with an announcement. He was an instructor in the School of Engineering at the University of Nebraska in Omaha and had a promising career. He had graduated second in his class from the University of Maryland and was a member of the top engineering societies in America. He said, ‘I have decided to live my life totally for Jesus Christ.’ What brought Bob to that commitment? The truth of II Peter 3:10. ‘If I give my life to designing roads, buildings, or bridges,’ he said, ‘nothing I have done will last. It will all burn.’ Bob had seen a great spiritual truth. An engineer could do all the things he mentioned and still be blessed by God. But he could not live for those things. An engineer can do his job and live for Christ as well. It is not what we do, but what we give our lives to while we are doing those things that really count. Some of the most productive disciples of Christ that I know are doctors, dentists, builders, military men, politicians, laborers, nurses, and housewives. What is their secret? They live for Christ – their lives committed to Him.” (LeRoy Eims, *Disciples in Action*, Nav Press, Victor Books, 1981, page 122.)

- C. Read the following passage and then answer the questions in the context of the principle of the Discipleship Wheel – Christ the Center.

Matthew 8:23-27

23 *And when He got into the boat, His disciples followed Him.*

24 *And behold, there arose a great storm in the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves; but He Himself was asleep.*

25 *And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, “Save us, Lord; we are perishing!”*

26 *And He said to them, “Why are you timid, you men of little faith?” Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and it became perfectly calm.*

27 *And the men marveled, saying, “What kind of a man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?”*



- D. In the above life illustration, LeRoy Eims quotes II Peter 3:10. Read this passage and record below how this truth affects your decision concerning Christ, the center of your life as a disciple.

II Peter 3:9-12

9 *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

10 *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.*

11 *Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,*

12 *looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, on account of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!*

**Passage for Meditation: II Corinthians 5:17**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Colossians 1:27**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Galatians 2:20**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: John 15:1-6**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

**Passage for Meditation: Philippians 4:13**

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?