

IDENTITY AND AGENDA

Matthew 28:16-20

Firemen put out fires. Painters paint. Football players play football. Their *identity* sets their *agenda* for action. Same with Christians. So, in light of The Great Commission, *what* are we, and *how* should our identity affect our life agenda?

1. WE ARE A ROCK.

We are people who anchor our identity and build our lives on the rock-solid foundation of the commands, the cleansing, and the claim of Christ. We need the *commands* of Christ (Vs 20) because apart from His commands, we have no North Star to guide us. We need the *cleansing* of Christ (“ . . . baptizing . . . ”) because we can’t keep His commands, that is sin, and our sins need washing away if we are to be acceptable before God. We need the *claim* of Christ that we bear the Name of the Trinitarian God (Vs 19) and that we are part of God’s forever family, by grace, through faith. Every Christian anchored in the commands, the cleansing, and the claim of Christ is a rock. Are you?

2. WE ARE A RIVER.

Even while we stand *firm*, we do not stand *still*. Vs 19 says “Go.” Jesus wants us to be a river that runs through the landscape of everything we do from our work to our school, our family life, and our social life . . . a river that runs through and irrigates and changes the landscape of all nations. The mighty, flowing river of Christianity cannot be stopped. Ever. It will flow over every dam and levee that tries to stop its flow – whether it be a government, a false religion, or a false philosophy. God’s word will not return void, and His gospel is unstoppable. As we stand firm and will not be moved, we will also be a river that cannot be stopped!

3. WE ARE A FIRE.

Fire is a mighty power that can be unleashed by the smallest spark as long as it has the right fuel. Although the disciples were diminished in number (Vs 16) and in faith (Vs 17), Jesus could expect blazing results from these smoking embers because Jesus Himself provided fuel. He provides them with His *authority* (Vs 18). Wherever you go, you have the right to speak of Christ. Because of Christ’s authority, the Gospel is never “out of bounds.” Jesus also provides them with his *presence* (Vs 20). Wherever you go, you never fly solo. After all, it is the Great CO-mission. Jesus will never leave you, forsake you, or abandon you. He even promises to send His Holy Spirit; and like a fire driven by the wind, so is the Gospel in the world when the Gospel is empowered by The Holy Spirit. You are a fire that cannot be put out.

Embrace your true identity. You’re a rock, a river, and a fire. Be what you are!

Sermon Summary from April 13, 2008 // Copyright 2008 Dr. J. Stephen Jussely
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