

Crown graphic w/email

What makes a person a Christian?

{all one slide}

What makes my life Christian?

My day

My decisions

My relationships

My attitudes

My words

My reactions

Becoming vs. Being

I Samuel 26:2-6

... **Saul**, accompanied by three thousand of the fit young men of Israel, went immediately to the Wilderness of Ziph to search for **David** there. ³ Saul camped beside the road at the hill of Hachilah opposite Jeshimon. David was living in the wilderness and discovered Saul had come there after him ... ⁵ ... David went to the place where Saul had camped ... Saul was lying inside the inner circle of the camp with the troops camped around him. ⁶ Then David asked Ahimelech the Hethite and Joab's brother **Abishai** son of Zeruah, "Who will go with me into the camp to Saul?" "I'll go with you," answered Abishai.

Fundamental question → **Why are we here?**

David & Abishai: Why go into the camp of Saul?

I Samuel 26:7-8

That night, David and Abishai came to the troops, and Saul was lying there asleep in the inner circle of the camp with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. Abner and the troops were lying around him. ⁸ Then **Abishai** said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy to you. Let me thrust the spear through him into the ground just once. I won't have to strike him twice!"

I Samuel 26:9-11

But David said to Abishai, "**Don't** destroy him, for who can lift a hand against the Lord's anointed and be innocent?" ¹⁰ David added, "As the Lord lives, the Lord will certainly strike him down: either his day will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹ However, as the Lord is my witness, I will never lift my hand against the Lord's anointed. Instead, take **the spear and the water jug** by his head, and let's go."

Being a Christian: **display the difference** ...

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the **salt of the earth** ... ¹⁴ “You are the **light of the world**. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one lights a lamp and puts it under a basket, but rather on a lampstand, and it gives light for all who are in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine **before others**, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Being a Christian:

I am responsible for **obedience**; God is responsible for **outcomes**.
I trust God.

We do not have to know how God will work in order to do what obedience requires.

Beware of utilitarian faith (Life hack faith)

Romans 8:6, 8-9

Now the **mindset** of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace ...
⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Galatians 5:22-23

... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.

Being a Christian: **Counting the cost.**

Luke 14:28

For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to complete it?

Being a Christian: Knowing God can **satisfy and reward ...**

Philippians 3:8

I **count everything as loss** because of the **surpassing worth** of **knowing Christ Jesus** my Lord.

God + _____ = Happiness, Security, & Identity

Why does God allow evil & suffering to continue?

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is **not slow** to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is **patient** toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach **repentance**.

I Samuel 26:12-25

- **David and Saul speak**

I Samuel 26:23a

The Lord **rewards** every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness ...

I Samuel 26:25

Saul said to him, “You are **blessed**, my son David. You will certainly do great things and will also **prevail**.” Then David went on his way, and Saul returned home.

Being a Christian: Living by **focused faith**

1 Samuel 27 → “God-less”

I Samuel 27:1

David **said to himself**, “One of these days I’ll be **swept away** by Saul. There is **nothing better** for me than to **escape** immediately to the **land of the Philistines**. Then Saul will give up searching for me everywhere in Israel, and I’ll **escape** from him.”

Faith must be **renewed ... often.**

Gauges to check:

- **Hope**
- **Weariness**

{same slide if possible}

Faith comes from **hearing and hearing must be checked ... often.**

Romans 10:17

... faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

{put together on one slide if possible and looks clean}

TWG graphic

Small group graphic

DNOW graphic if available

I am not living as a Christian when ...

1) I shrink and narrow **God’s will for my life.**

I Samuel 27:4-7

When it was reported to Saul that David had fled to Gath, he **no longer** searched for him.

Now David said to **Achish**, “If I have found favor with you, let me be given a place in one of the outlying towns, so I can live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?” ⁶ That day Achish gave **Ziklag** to him, and it still belongs to the kings of Judah today. ⁷ The length of time that David stayed in Philistine territory amounted to a year and four months.

2) I am more interested in “*what works for me*” than what **God requires of me**

I Samuel 27:9, 11-12

Whenever David attacked the land, he did not leave a single person alive, either man or woman, but he took flocks, herds, donkeys, camels, and clothing. Then he came back to Achish ... David did not let a man or woman live to be brought to Gath, for he said, “Or they will inform on us and say, ‘This is what David did.’” This was David’s custom during the whole time he stayed in the Philistine territory. ¹² So Achish trusted David, thinking, “Since he has made himself repulsive to his people Israel, he will be my servant forever.”

3) I am not paying attention to my **sanctification.**

{come up one at a time}

The battle of being a Christian ...

Could actually be part of our assurance.

Before we can BE a Christian, we must BECOME a Christian.

Justification, Redemption, & Adoption before sanctification.