

Slide 1

The Significance Of Being A Christian

Introduction

1. It is always exciting to see someone become a Christian.
 - a. I have seen tears shed by a father whose son or daughter ask that he baptize them.
 - b. I have seen the joy expressed by a wife of many years whose husband chose to put Christ on in baptism.
2. It doesn't matter whether I am away in a foreign country, at Camp Leatherwood or here at home, the response is always the same.
3. Even an observer who doesn't understand all that is going on realizes that something meaningful is taking place.
4. Sometimes, however, the importance of being a Christian appears to be lost:
 - a. Even we as Christians do not always appreciated the significance of being a Christians.
 - b. When this happens, we fail to grow as we should.
5. It is important that we stop to reflect and ask ourselves . . .
 - a. What just happened to me? What did I do?
 - b. What have I received? What have I become?
 - c. What is different about me?
6. Tonight, I would like for us to consider . . .
 - a. First, the meaning, importance and value of our having become a Christian.
 - b. Second, what we are now to do as Christians.

Slide 2

I. Each Of Us Is A New Creation Of God

A. OUR OLD MAN IS NO MORE

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Corinthians 5:17, NASB95)

“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—” (Colossians 3:9–10, NASB95)

Slide 3

B. WE BECAME A NEW CREATION AS A RESULT OF OUR NEW BIRTH MADE POSSIBLE BY . . .

1. Our response to the Word of God

“In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures.” (James 1:18, NASB95)

“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, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.” (1 Peter 1:22–23, NASB95)

Slide 4

2. The working of the Spirit of God

“Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3–5, NASB95)

“He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:5–7, NASB95)

Slide 5

II. We Are Each Now Living A New Life

A. SCRIPTURE DESCRIBES OUR TRANSITION IN TWO WAYS

1. A passing from death to life

- a. As Jesus promised after healing the lame man by the pool of Bethesda (John 5:24).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” (John 5:24, NASB95)

- b. As Paul made clear in his letter to the Christians in Colosse (Colossians 2:13).

“When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,” (Colossians 2:13, NASB95)

2. A passing from darkness to light

- a. When Paul was confronted on the road to Damascus by Jesus, following His ascension back to heaven, Jesus told him that He was sending Paul to the Gentiles, “so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God” (Acts 26:18).
- b. Paul told the Christians in Ephesus, “you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord” (Ephesians 5:8).

- c. In his letter to the Christians in Colosse, he said that God “rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13).
- d. In 1 Peter 2:9, the apostle Peter told the Christians of Asia Minor that God had “called [them] out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Slide 6**B. WE ARE NOW LIVING A LIFE OF RENEWAL THROUGH THE RENEWING OF . . .**

1. Our mind (Romans 12:2).

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2, NASB95)

“Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:1–3, NASB95)

2. Our inner man (2 Corinthians 4:16).

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16, NASB95)

3. As the song, **“Jesus Is Changing Me,”** says,

**Little by little everyday, little by little in every way,
Jesus is changing me, He’s changing me.
Since I made that turn about face, I’ve been growing in His grace,
Jesus is changing me.**

Slide 7**III. We Now Have A New Loyalty**

A. WE HAVE GONE FROM SERVING IDOLS TO SERVING GOD (1 THESSALONIANS 1:9)

“For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,” (1 Thessalonians 1:9, NASB95)

1. The Gentiles of Paul’s day worshiped a host of false gods — Zeus, Apollo, Athena, Aphrodite just to mention a few.
2. The Athenians had many such “objects of worship.”
3. While we may not have such temples or gods that we worshiped in the past, there were other things which demanded our attention more than the God of heaven.
4. When we became Christians, our loyalty changed and the one true and living God became the object of our affection and worship.
5. Consider these words:
 - a. **“We have come into His house, and gathered in His name to worship Him.”**
 - b. **“You are Lord of Creation and Lord of My life,
Lord of the land and the sea,
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time
Lord of all lords you will be.**

7b

B. ONCE WE WERE SLAVES OF SIN, NOW WE ARE SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (ROMANS 6:16-18)

“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? 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, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:16–18, NASB95)

1. Someone has said that we as humans have the freedom to choose who our master will be, but we do not have the freedom to choose no master.
2. Paul says that we are either slaves of sin or slaves of obedience to God.
3. One results in death — the other results in righteousness (i.e., a life rightly lived before God).
4. Because you and I as Christians chose to serve “the living and true God,” we now follow Him in the paths of righteousness through which He leads us.

7c

C. JESUS CHRIST IS NOW LORD OF OUR LIVES (1 PETER 3:15)

“but sanctify [set apart] Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;” (1 Peter 3:15, NASB95)

1. He alone is now the strength of my life.
2. He alone has the final authority in our lives.
3. As our hymn declares, He is our only hope, our only peace, our only joy.
4. He is all that we need.

Conclusion

1. If you are a Christian tonight, you are living a life of great significance.
2. You are a new creation of God, living a new life with a new loyalty.
3. Because of this you have a hope which sustains you through every difficulty of life and an eternal home which awaits you, prepared for you by the One who gave His life to redeem you.
4. I want to encourage you to live as the person God has called you to be.
5. Do not be afraid to declare His excellencies to those around you and to tell them why you have the hope you do.
6. If you are not a Christian, I hope that tonight’s lesson may give you reason

enough to become one.

7. Why not make tonight the night you gave your life to Him?