

## BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST

Text: Mark 9:41

INTRO: Jesus spoke of His disciples as belonging to Him. Let's think for a few minutes what it means to belong to Christ.

### I. IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN, YOU BELONG TO CHRIST.

A. You have been bought at a tremendous cost.

1 Cor 6:19-20, Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, & you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

1 Cor 7:22-23, For he who is called in the Lord while a slave is the Lord's freedman. Likewise he who is called while free is Christ's slave. You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

B. If you have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus, you are in His church.  
Acts 20:28; Eph 5:25; Acts 2:47

C. In turn, if you are in Christ's church, you belong to Christ!

II. IF YOU BELONG TO CHRIST, IT IS BECAUSE YOU CHOSE TO BELONG TO HIM.

A. Your belonging to Christ is not a matter of mere chance—or of compulsion. Christ invited. You accepted.

B. If you are a Christian--in the N.T. sense of that term, you heard, believed & obeyed the gospel, Acts 2:36-41, 47.

1. You chose heaven instead of hell.
2. You chose Christ instead of Satan.

III. BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST, YOU HAVE CERTAIN INESCAPABLE RESPONSIBILITIES. Christ wants you to count the cost--then don't look back.

Luke 14:28, 33, For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it... So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Luke 9:62, But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

A. If you are going to be a Christian, you must give yourself completely to Christ.

2 Cor 8:5, And this [the Christians in Macedonia] did, not as we had hoped, but first gave themselves to the Lord, & then to us by the will of God.

1. Christ has prior claim to you. He owns you, body & soul, 1 Cor 6:19-20.

2. I own a car. I can drive it, lend it, paint it, sell it, or give it away. But you'd better not try to do that to my car.

3. You must--at all cost--put Christ's will first in your life. MT 6:33; 10:37-38.

B. You have the responsibility of fitting into Christ's family, the church.

1. The church is a brotherhood. Each member has the responsibility of being a brother or sister to his fellow Christians.

JN 13:35, All will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

NOTE: It is also possible for men to know we are not His disciples...

a. As brothers & sisters, we should encourage one another in what is right, Heb 10:24

b. We should set good examples before each other.

2. The privilege of eating at the Lord's table requires refusal of the devil's victuals. 1 Cor 10:21.

3. Being in the family or church of Christ carries the responsibility of

doing your part in the work of the church.

Eph 4:14-16, We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

#### IV. BECAUSE YOU BELONG TO CHRIST YOU WILL HAVE GREAT REWARD.

- A. Temporal blessings--cup of cold water, etc.
- B. Eternal reward in heaven.

Mark 10:29-31, So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundred-fold now in this time--houses & brothers & sisters & mothers & children & lands, with persecutions--& in the age

to come, eternal life. But many who are  
first will be last, and the last first."

La Porte, TX, June 5, 1983

Harrison, AR, June 12, 1983

Exton, PA, July 29, 1984

Lancaster County, PA, January 5, 1986

Exton, PA, August 19, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 21, 1996

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 9, 2000