

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN? #1 A SOLDIER

2Tim. 2³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer.
NIV

Do you remember as a child singing “Onward Christian Soldiers”? How about “I’m in the Lord’s army”? (quote some of the song)

We were being told who we were and what to expect.
Do we see ourselves in that role today?

I don’t think so. Imagine this roll call.

Thompson!- “His family is in town”

Smith!- “He was out late last night, I think he may be late”

McClary!- “He has been going through a tough time lately and didn’t feel like showing up.”

People act in church like they can’t act anywhere else. If they acted that way on the job they would be fired. If they acted that way in their marriage they would be single.....so they come to church and act out.

How then is a Christian like a soldier?

I. A SOLDIER IS MENTALLY TOUGH.

v3 Endure hardness!

A. The battle is real- It is no longer training it is live rounds being fired at us.

B. The enemy wants to break your moral.

Propaganda is used to speak into your ear that the battle is not worth it. You are a failure. Go home.

C. The commander warned us about the conflict.

John 16 33.....In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

2Co 10⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ NIV

II. A SOLDIER IS COMMITTED.

v4 ... **he wants to please his commanding officer.**

A. Semper Phidelis- “always faithful”

Ill. Soldiers saying farewell to families.

III. Missionary Jim Bennett, Randy Dorsey etc. with their families leaving the states, parents age, family members are born etc. Yet they stay committed.

B. Committed to their commander.

1. They want to please him- “well done good and faithful servant.”

2. They are trained to listen to a particular voice.

III. General retiring from the military was asked, “What is the thing you want your soldiers to remember about you than anything else?” His response was, “I want my men to know my voice in the dark”.

III. Paul and Silas at midnight remembered the voice.

Isa. 30²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”

3. They are committed to defend the Constitution.

Defend the word of God.

Remember the words of the pledge of allegiance to the Christian flag?

**I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior
for whose kingdom it stands.**

**One brotherhood uniting all true Christians in service
and in love.**

Don't compromise it.

III. A SOLDIER KNOWS THERE WILL BE CASUALTIES.

A. Friendly fire- hurting your own with good intentions

B. The enemy uses hidden weapons.

Land mines, bobby traps, people carrying bombs etc.

C. He knows he may be wounded himself.

1Peter 4¹³ But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

Listen to the account Paul concerning what it cost him to represent Christ.

2Co. 11²³.... I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.²⁴ Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits,

in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. ²⁷ I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸ Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.

IV. A SOLDIER COUNTS THE COST-

HE WILL GIVE HIS LIFE FOR HIS COUNTRY.

2Cor. 4 ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. ¹¹ For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body.

2Timothy 4 ⁶ For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

III. Billy Graham is preaching his last crusade. He has been an example of stability and faithfulness to the gospel. He has never changed nor compromised his message. He was asked how he felt about death. His response was, "Death is a mystery. I have no fear of it. I am ready. I look forward to it. I anticipate it. I know that the first person I see will be Jesus".

I AM A SOLDIER

I am a soldier in the army of my God.
The Lord Jesus Christ is my commanding officer
The Holy Bible is my code of conduct
Faith prayer and the Word of God are my weapons of warfare.
I have been taught by the Holy Spirit
I have been trained by experience
I have been tried by adversity
I have been tested by fire.
I am a volunteer in this army and I am enlisted for eternity.
I will retire in this army or die in this army.
But I will not get out, sell out, be talked out, or pushed out.
I am faithful, reliable, capable, and dependable.
If God needs me I am there.
I am a soldier. I am not a baby. I do not need to be pampered,
petted, primed up, pumped up, picked up, or pepped up.

I am a soldier. No one has to call me, remind me, write me, visit me, entice me, nor lure me.

I am a soldier. I am not a wimp. I am in my place, saluting my king, obeying His orders, praising his name and building his kingdom.

No one has to send me flowers, gifts, food, hard candy or hand outs.

I don't need to be coddled, cradled, cared for or catered to.

I am committed.

I can not have my feelings hurt bad enough to turn me around.

I can not be discouraged enough to turn me aside.

I can not loose enough to cause me to quit.

When Jesus called me into this army I had nothing, and if I end up with nothing I will be even.

I will win. My God will supply all my needs. I am more than a conqueror.

I will always triumph because I can do all things through Christ.

Devils cannot defeat me, people cannot disallution me, weather can not weary me, sickness can not stop me, battles can not beat me, money can not buy me, governments cannot silence me, and hell can not handle me.

I am a soldier, even death cannot destroy me.

So when my commander calls me from this battle field he will promote me to a captain.

I am a soldier in the army, I am marching, claiming victory, I will not give up, I will not turn around.

I am a soldier, marching heaven bound, here I stand.

I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, nor am I what I hope to be,

But I am not what I used to be, and with God's help I will become what he wants me to be, I am a soldier.

2Tim 4 7 I have fought a good fight...