

## **Are We Too Focused On Converting People?**

Slaying the Dragons of Deception #3  
Romans 10:14-15; 1 John 4:9-12

*“Christians are too concerned with converting people. They are insincere. All I ever hear is ‘Get Saved!’ I tried that whole ‘Jesus thing’ already. It didn’t work for me before, and I am not interested now.” - Shawn, age 22*

## **How Are We Perceived? Are We Guilty?**

*“This (negative) type of comment is fueled in large part by generational skepticism. Of course every generation has its share of cynics, but (16 to 29 year olds) have been raised in an environment in which ‘certainty’ is up for grabs. Among young adults, process trumps product and the journey is more important than the destination. This skeptical viewpoint affects how they think about belief and conversion.” [Unchristian](#), pg. 68*

***“Belief is a beautiful armor, but makes for the heaviest sword.”***

*John Mayer, in his song, “Belief”*

## **Isn’t It Our Job to “Convert” People?**

**Matthew 5:13-16** (NIV) **“You are the salt of the earth.** But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. <sup>14</sup> **“You are the light of the world.** A city on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, **let your light shine** before men, **that they may see** your good deeds and **praise your Father in heaven.** Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 3:15; Colossians 4:6

## **Have We Displayed a “Costless Christianity?”**

*“It is easy to embrace a costless form of Christianity in America today, and we have probably contributed to that by giving people a superficial understanding of the gospel and focusing only on their decision to convert.” [Unchristian](#), pg. 75*

**Luke 14:27-28, 33** (NLT) (Jesus) **If you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.** <sup>28</sup> **“But don’t begin until you count the cost.** For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? <sup>33</sup> **So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.** Matthew 11:28

## **What Does It Really Mean to Be a “Christian?”**

**1. To Be “\_\_\_\_\_” through Faith in Christ.**

**John 3:5-6** (NLT) Jesus replied, “I assure you, **no one can enter the Kingdom of God** without being **born of water** and **the Spirit.** <sup>6</sup> Humans can reproduce only human life, but **the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.** John 1:12; 3:16; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 2:2; Romans 1:16-17; 12:1-2; Revelation 3:20; John 6:44; 12:32

**2. To Be “\_\_\_\_\_” by Following Christ.**

**Romans 12:2** **“Let God transform you by changing the way you think.”** Colossians 2:2-3; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Galatians 4:19

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John 3:16-17; John 17:3; Matthew 22:37-38; Psalm 46:10
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Romans 12:1-2; Matthew 22:39; Hebrews 10:19-25; 13:7-8
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Matthew 20:25-28; Ephesians 4:12-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7

***“Seeking and Serving God Together”***