



7-19-2026

Christ: From Creation to Caught Up

Part 16a: Choosing Appearance Over God's Heart

Sometimes what _____ wants isn't what _____ wants.

Israel wanted a _____ instead of God.

Every rejection of God's _____ is ultimately a rejection of God's _____.

1. DON'T REJECT GOD'S _____

A. The greatest issue of _____ is, who's sitting on the _____ of your heart.

B. Appearance isn't the same as _____.

C. Our first _____ often reveals who we really trust.

2. DON'T BE FOOLED BY _____

A. We spend hours improving _____...while neglecting our _____. 1 Samuel 16:7

B. Everything flows from the _____

C. Character is the _____. Appearance is only the _____.

Follow-Up Study (Do alone or with others)

- o Have you ever wanted something badly, only to discover later that it wasn't what you really needed? What did you learn from that experience?

Read : 1 Samuel 8:4-7

Point 1: Don't Reject God's Reign

1 Samuel 8:4-7, Matthew 6:33, John 18:36

1. Why do you think Israel wanted a king like the surrounding nations?
2. What are some modern-day things people trust instead of trusting God?

Application

Take a moment to identify an area where you may be relying more on your own plans, abilities, finances, or relationships than on God's leadership. What would surrendering that area to Christ look like this week?

Point 2: Don't Emphasize the External

1 Samuel 9:2, 1 Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 4:23

3. Why are we naturally drawn to appearances, image, status, and outward success?
4. What qualities does God value that our culture often overlooks?

Application

Ask God to reveal any area where you have been more concerned with appearance than character. What practical step can you take this week to cultivate a stronger heart for God?

Point 3: Jesus Is the King We Need

Isaiah 53:2, Philippians 2:8-11, Colossians 1:15-18

5. In what ways did Jesus succeed where Saul failed?
6. How does Jesus redefine what true leadership and greatness look like?

Application

Choose one area of your life where you need Jesus to reign as King. Spend time this week intentionally submitting that area to Him through prayer, obedience, and trust.

This week, whenever you are faced with a decision, pause and ask:

"Am I choosing what looks right, or am I choosing what God says is right?"

Write down one area where God is calling you to greater obedience and commit to taking a specific step of faith before next week's meeting.

What "Saul-like" tendency do you see most often in yourself?

Wanting control instead of trusting God?

Focusing on appearances?

Growing impatient with God's timing?

Partial obedience?

Pride?

Seeking relief instead of repentance?