

# THE CHARACTERS AND DRAMA OF 1 SAMUEL

[PART 37]  
**IS THERE NOT  
A CAUSE?**

*Reading: 1 Samuel 17:26 - 29*

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## **Introduction**

- A most serious situation confronts the armies of Israel.
- It is a challenge to God and the Kingdom of God on earth.
- God's will and rule is being challenged.
- David arrives at the battlefield and indicates he will fight Goliath.
- David's eldest brother Eliab judges David.

## **1 Eliab The Critic**

- A critic is a '**fault finder**' or a '**nitpicker**'.
- A critic finds fault and expresses unfavourable opinions.
- They are basically a self-appointed judge of others.
- Don't be a critic, be an encourager.

## **2 The Cause**

- A cause is a good reason, motivation or principle for doing something.
- It is something you sow into.
- There are both good and bad/evil causes.
- Then there is the greatest cause - the cause of God and heaven.
- When we stand before God His cause will be the only one that matters.

### 3 People Who Realised There Is A Cause

- Moses: the cause of liberating Israel from the slavery of Egypt.
- Nehemiah: the cause of rebuilding Jerusalem's walls despite the opposition of the critics.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer: the cause of the '**Confessing Church**' in Hitler's Germany.
- Corrie Ten Boone: the cause of hiding the Jews from the Nazis.
- William Tyndale: the cause of a Bible in English to fuel the Reformation.

### 4 The Cost Of The Cause

- There is often a price to pay for the cause.
- Ask Bonhoeffer or Tyndale or Corrie Ten Boone.
- But the greatest cause was the redemption of fallen humanity. No greater cause.
- Consider the price Christ paid for that cause.
- But in every case the cost was worth it.

**NB.** Jesus was able to say, '***It is finished!***'

Concerning His cause - you've got to finish what you start.

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**Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle** 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS  
Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: [info@whitewell.church](mailto:info@whitewell.church)  
[www.whitewell.church](http://www.whitewell.church)