

ARE YOU A SAINT?

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Are you a saint? If you are a Christian, you are. I know that there are religious groups that teach in order to be a saint an individual has to have performed some special deeds and above all, that individual must be dead, but that is not what the Bible teaches. When we look at the scriptures, we see that those who are referred to as "saints" were very much alive! The apostle Paul often refers to the saints when he is writing to different churches and always his reference is to the members of the church to which he is writing (Rom. 1:7; Eph. 1:2, etc.). He even uses the designation to speak of the members of the church in Corinth, despite all of the problems that they had.

Since, as Christians, we are saints, it is important for us to understand what is meant by the word so that we can know what kind of people we ought to be. As with many of the other designations of the Lord's people, it is a descriptive term and not a title. The word *saint* is a translation of the Greek word *hagios* and is often translated "holy" (1 Pet. 1:15, etc.). It is affirmed of God in the absolute sense, "Holy One" in His purity, majesty, and glory. It is affirmed of the three personages of deity, Father (Luke 1:49), Son (Luke 1:35), and Spirit (Mat. 1:18). It is also used of men and things in so far as they are devoted to God, that is, set aside for the service of God. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it is used to describe the tabernacle or temple and their furnishings to indicate that they were aside to be used in the service of God and not for use in the ordinary affairs of life.

Thus, Christians are called to be "saints," "holy ones," that is they are to be devoted to God, set aside for service to God. It means that as Christians our lives are to be devoted to the service of God and as such our lives should be lived in such a way as to show that we are children of our Father, who is the Holy One. It means that we should seek to separate ourselves from that which is unclean and that which defiles us. As Christians, we should seek to live our lives in a way that separates us from sin. The Corinthians were not living up to their high calling and thus, as Paul writes to them he is urging them to separate themselves from that which was defiling them that they might not be just "saints" in name, but in actuality. Christian, you are a "saint," thus you need to live like one! This is true for all, let us then seek to be truly the saints of God so that the world might see us as a people that are devoted to their God.~

Deceased