

## CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE SAINTS

Exodus 32:26

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** God had delivered His people out of Egypt and hardly had they got out of Egypt than they built a golden calf and began to worship it. Moses coming down from the mountain where he had been with God, saw what the people were doing and called out "...*Who is on the Lord's side?...*" All of the people there were of God's people, yet there many among them who were not true to the God who had delivered them. As then, so it is today for there are among God's people many who "profess" to be Christians, yet they are not devoted to the Lord but to themselves and selfishness and to what others think. There are some characteristics that stand out among those who are true saints of God, true Christians.

**1. They are those who do their best to avoid sin.**

- They will not justify sin in their own lives, nor make excuses or try to cover up their sins.
- They do their best to obey God in every area of their lives
- They want to be and live as God wants.

**2. They are those who have deep feelings and dislike of the sins of others.**

- As they hate sin in their own lives, they feel the same way about sin in the lives of others and never make excuses for any sin by anybody.

**3. They have a zeal for the honor and glory of God.**

- As one has love, honor and respect for his/her own country being a true patriot, so a true child of God truly loves his/her heavenly father and is hurt whenever God is disobeyed or spoken lightly of by those who ought to be obeying, honoring and loving Him.

**4. They clearly show sympathy with God toward His feelings toward mankind.**

- They share a care for souls as God does and have a love toward others as a parent does toward his/her children.
- As Jesus wept over Jerusalem, so true saints care about lost souls.

**5. They want to make their friends and others they meet friends of God.**

- It is their desire that everybody they know and meet to lead them to believe in the Lord Jesus and become members of God's family.

**6. They will do their best to avoid any/everything that might hinder their witness to others.**

- Is this something God doesn't want me to do or be involved in?
- How will this hinder my witness?

**7. They are always anxious and restless unless/until somebody is witnessing to the lost.**

- No matter how much the congregation grows, no matter how popular the minister is, no matter how great the music is, unless somebody is being saved regularly, they are restless.
- Often they speak out about souls not being converted, not reaching the lost, and are sometimes called "troublemakers" when their hearts are grieved and in agony because sinners are not being saved.

**8. They are steady in prayer, not just for themselves but for all sinners.**

- The burden of their prayers is for the glory of God in sinners being saved and in prayer their favorite subject is sinners being saved.
- In prayer meetings they are the ones who focus on the lost, and if they mention themselves, it is that they might be better witnesses for the Lord.

**9. They do not have to be asked to either witness or help others in witnessing.**

- All they need to know is in what way can I do the most to bring the lost to the Lord Jesus?

- 10. They will deny whatever is necessary in order to do good to others.**
  - The very spirit of the Lord Jesus was/is that of given, not to please Himself, but to do good to others.
  - So it is with true saints, they are ever ready to deny themselves enjoyments, comforts and even necessities in order to do some good to others.
- 11. They are always thinking up new ways for doing good to others.**
  - What didn't work before is replaced with some new way or idea that will help others.
  - If one thing fails, then try again and again until something is found that will help bring others to the Lord.
- 12. They are very grieved whenever their Church seems asleep or idle in winning people to the Lord.**
  - Sadly most Churches are not "on fire" for the Lord in reaching the lost but if there are "true saints" in the congregation, they are grieved and distressed at heart over the church's condition.
- 13. They are saddened if their pastor minimizes witnessing or does not reprove very clearly and pointedly the sins of not witnessing.**
  - Most believers are content with things the way they are in their Church life, smooth, flowery and eloquent sermons having no point nor challenge.
  - True saints are very sad and grieved over such an atmosphere in their Church.
- 14. They will stand by a faithful pastor who preaches God's Word clearly, boldly and to the point.**
  - It doesn't matter if the truth hits them right between the eyes, they accept it, are fed and grow and for such a pastor, they can pray and encourage.
  - They want to reach the lost and a pastor who preaches that believers are to reach the lost will be lifted up and supported by true saints.
- 15. They get distressed when their pastor fails to preach sermons not aimed at the lost.**
  - When the sermon is not addressed to the Church to stir the members up, no matter how eloquent it may be true saints are distressed but if a sermon is preached to the congregation to stir them up to go out and witness to the lost, then the true saints in the Church rejoice.
- 16. They are never satisfied with themselves for they want to do more than they have done to reach the lost.**
  - The more they do, the more they want to do, never being satisfied, never content, never having the attitude that they can sit back now and let somebody else take over.
  - There is no such thing as satisfying their thirst to reach the lost for the Lord Jesus.
- 17. To develop and grow true saints, then the situation of lost sinners must be shown, how they dishonor God.**
  - Show them how they can witness and bring the lost to the Lord Jesus, show them until their hearts long to witness and they spend time in prayer travailing for the lost, until they, themselves, go out and witness, seeing the lost brought to the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Do YOU belong to this class of believers/Christians or not?
2. Of these characteristics, how many do you have?
3. Every one of these characteristics can belong to every true believer in the Lord Jesus, IF the believer really wants them.
4. Can you say, "*...O Lord, thou knowest all things, thou knowest that I love thee, and that these are the features of my character...*"
5. Do you want to say that?