

*Thanks to our Speaker
Shannon Hudson*

Christians are Saints!

The New Testament uses the word *saint* or *saints* 67 times. In every instance, the reference is to all believers (e.g., Acts 26:10; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2). Never is the word used of a special group of believers who serve God better than others. Scripture is clear that all Christians are saints.

Hebrews 10:10, 14

“We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all time...For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff

15 Kena Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Temporary Meeting Times

Sunday.....10:00 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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Holy Priesthood

By Robert Notgrass

Peter told the church that *“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”* (1 Peter 2:5). He also said that the church is *“a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* (1 Peter 2:9).

When the Law of Moses was handed down on the mountains of Sinai and the tabernacle was constructed and finally assembled, God authorized specific people from the tribe of Levi to be the priests of the tabernacle. Moses was told to, *“take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons.”* (Ex. 28:1).

It was the responsibility of these priests to offer sacrifices to God on behalf of the people of Israel (Leviticus 1:17). The priests were also made to wear special clothing that would set them apart from others. We are told, *“And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a robe, and a brodered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest’s office.”* (Exodus 28:4).

But both the Law of Moses and the Levitical priesthood was taken away when Jesus died on the cross for mankind. Paul wrote, *“But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”* (Ephesians 2:13-16). Thus, since the priesthood had changed, it was necessary to change the law (Hebrews 7:12).

Under the Christian time, Jesus Christ is our “*great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.*” (Hebrews 4:14). Under his teachings, there is no special class of priest among the people. Under Christ, every Christian is a priest and is authorized to go directly to God through Jesus Christ to confess HIS sins and to OFFER up his worship for the Hebrew writer said, “*By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.*” (Hebrews 13:15-16). How blessed Christians are today to be able to be a priest under our great high Priest!

Let Us Love One Another

By Kevin Rutherford

The church at Corinth had many problems. Some of those problems directly affected the relationships between brothers and sisters in Christ. The way those Christians were treating each other is the reason why Paul showed them a more excellent way. The more excellent way is love (1 Corinthians 12:31, 13:13).

When Christians do not love one another there are going to be problems in the church. Not only will there be problems in the church but there will be Christians who lose their souls. John wrote, “*We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him*” (1 John 3:14, 15).

Whether or not we love our brothers and sisters in Christ says a lot about our relationship with God (1 John 4:7-11). If we do not love our fellow Christians then we are not born of God, do not love God, and do not know God. We can claim to love God all we want to but if we are not treating our brothers and sisters in a loving manner we are simply liars.

The greatest example of love is God’s love for mankind (1 John 4:10-11). God sent His Son to die for us. That gives evidence of tremendous love. We love God because He loved us and made it possible for our sins to be removed. John drew an important conclusion based upon these facts. “*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another*” (1 John 4:11).

The love that we have for other Christians will be seen in the way that we live, and in the things that we do (1 John 3:16-18). If we see a brother and we have the ability to help them we will do so. In fact, it should make us happy to be able to help a fellow Christian. If we are not willing to help each other, we are not of the truth and our hearts condemn us before God (1 John 3:19).

Our love for one another will greatly affect our eternal destiny and our influence in the community. Why would anyone want to be a part of a group if they do not believe the members of that group love one another? We need to have a genuine love for fellow Christians that will be obvious even to those who are in the world (Romans 12:9, 10). When they see the love we have for another it is possible they may be drawn to the church.

To be Christ-like we must love one another. To be godly we must love one another. To have a strong influence on others we must love one another. To encourage each other we must love one another. To help each other we must love one another. To go to heaven together we must love one another. May God help us always to abound more and in our love for Him and in our love for our fellow Christians.

Self Honesty

(Psalm 136-140)

By Tim Dooley

One of the least appreciated character traits in mankind is the attribute of honesty! Oh, we talk about it and stress it’s important to our children but show an incredible lack of honesty when it comes to owning our own actions and words. To me, the biggest problem seems to be with self-honesty!

David declares that the Lord has searched us and knows us. Better even than we know ourselves! And this is more often than not the case because we are simply not honest with our-selves. We cannot hide from God, but often try to hide ourselves from ourselves. God knows us better than we know ourselves because He created us. Each new day brings us another opportunity to take stock in ourselves.

Be honest with ourselves and make the changes in our life we need to make. Quit blaming someone else, or something else, for who or what we are, and take ownership, extreme ownership of our life and our souls salvation. We’ll be eternally glad we do!