



# BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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**A** rather pompous-looking deacon was endeavoring to impress upon a class of boys the importance of living the Christian life. "Why do people call me a Christian?" the man asked. After a moment's pause, one youngster said, "Maybe it's because they don't know you."

Why do people call us Christians? The term "Christian" refers to one who follows the teachings or manifests the qualities or spirit of Christ. This definition implies God's desire for His people to be holy. Holiness is defined as sanctification or godliness. The word "holy" denotes that which is sanctified or set apart for divine service. In many of our religious circles, we hear the words holy or holiness. Certain denominations emphasize and revere these terms as traits found only in their denomination. But does it mean anything to those of us called Christians to be holy? Certainly holiness is not shrouded in mystery or a façade that we put on display every Sunday. Like the youngster in the story, our families and the people who know us well know if there is absence of legitimacy in our lives.

### So What Does It Look Like to Be Holy?

Holiness is not going to a certain church; it is not joining a certain denomination; it is not legitimized by hanging with a certain group; it is not being a super-Christian who has reached an elite status. It doesn't mean we walk around in a daze as though from another planet. (Thankfully for me, it doesn't mean we have to give up smiling or laughing!) Peter tells us holiness is legitimate when it becomes a way of life (1 Peter 1:15-16).

### Holiness for the Israelites in the Old Testament

When used in the Old Testament, the term holy sometimes referred to places and things. By its use we know it

meant special or separated. God first used the term as a command to Israel in Leviticus 11:44-45. In this passage, God said, "For I am the Lord your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. For I am the Lord that bringeth you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: ye shall therefore be holy, for I am holy." These verses set forth the foundation for God's distinction between clean and unclean things for the Israelites. Here He called them to be a special people and made a distinction between Jews and Gentiles. This distinction was evidenced in a lifestyle separated from the pagan world surrounding them.

### Holiness as Evidenced in the New-Testament Believer

The evidence for holiness is in our lives. Should believers ever be taken to court for their faith, no judge should ever be hard-pressed to find sufficient evidence to convict them. The Old-Testament Israelites were not holy because they didn't eat certain foods; they were holy first, which caused them to abstain from certain foods. To put it another way, they did not do a bunch of good things to become holy and therefore honor the Lord; they honored the Lord through their holiness and therefore did good things. The same evidence for holiness should be presented in New Testament believers. Holiness is a lifestyle of righteousness, truth (resulting in peace with God), and joy in our relationship with Him. Galatians 5:22 calls these traits the Fruit of the Spirit. This evidence will convict in a court of law. In other words, this is the product of a life lived for Christ.

We live in the world, but holiness demands that we live in such a way that our lives are different.... [Read the Rest>>>](#)

## IF THERE WAS NO RESURRECTION



There was a magician named Harry Houdini. He died in October of 1926, but his claim to fame was that he was a magician and an excellent escape artist. As a matter of fact, he was said to have laughed at locks and sneered at fetters.

Houdini was said to have had the flexibility of an eel and the lives of a cat. They did all kinds of things to incarcerate him. They sealed him in coffins, and he escaped. They riveted him in a boiler, and he escaped. They sewed him up in canvas bags, and he escaped. They locked him in a maximum-security prison; but somehow, Old Harry still got out.

But in October of 1926, Death laid its hands on Harry Houdini, and he would never escape. Speaking of death, Harry told his wife, "If there is any way out, I will find it. If there is any way out, I will find you and I will make contact with you on the anniversary of my death." For 10 years after Harry's death, his wife kept a light burning at the bottom of his portrait. She finally turned the light out. Death had laid its hands on Harry Houdini, and he could not escape.

Many would say, "If Harry couldn't do it, then it couldn't be done!" I want to talk to you about Someone greater than Harry Houdini. He wasn't a magician; He wasn't a great escape artist; He was the Son of the Living God. Unlike Houdini, however, Jesus rose from the dead — just like He said He would!

Paul said, *If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.* What if there was no resurrection? Paul talks about a domino effect that would take place if Christ were not raised. (The "domino effect" occurs when one event causes a series of other events.)

There are several important things to consider if there was no resurrection:

1. *Our preaching is in vain.* You that occasionally doze off during Sunday sermons could sleep well and rest assured that it's OK! The message would have no bearing on your life anyway! Paul uses the Greek word *kenton*, which means empty, groundless, and void of all truth and meaning. You see, the heart of the gospel message lies in the fact that Jesus Christ died and rose again.

2. *Our faith is in vain.* It is empty, groundless, and meaningless. Paul uses the Greek word *mataia*, which means fruitless or futile. If our faith is in vain, then our sins are not forgiven. If our sins are not forgiven, there is no redemption! Ephesians 1:7 explains, *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.*

When a Buddhist was asked why he converted to Christianity, he said, "It's like this: If you walked along and came to a fork in the road, and found two men there — one dead and the other alive — which man's directions would you follow?" If there is no resurrection of Christ, we must agree . . . [Read the Rest>>>](#)



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

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