

# Who Are the Saints?

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**Introduction:** There is confusion among religions about who God considers saints. His Word makes it plain.

## I) Tradition is not always correct.

- A) Jesus refuted tradition - *Mark 7:7-8*.
- B) Character is not a factor for sainthood - *Psalms 85:8*.
- C) God chooses His saints, not humans.
- D) He sanctifies them by the Holy Spirit.
- E) They are devoted to God - *Ruth 1:16-17*.

## II) Saintly devotion.

- A) To God in the 'Shema' - *Deut. 6:4-5 & Mark 12:29-30*.
- B) To other people - *Leviticus 19:18 & Mark 12:31*.
- C) Relationships are of greater importance than religious practice.

## III) Devotional love.

- A) Heart - emotion; exuberance - *2 Samuel 6*.
- B) Soul - psyche; personality; each unique.
- C) Mind - rational; reasoned; logical; studied.
  - 1) Aided by the Holy Spirit - *2 Corinthians 2:9-12*.
- D) Strength - action; might - *1 John 3:18; Ecclesiastes 9:10*.
  - 1) Using each of our faculties.
- E) Includes love for others equal to self-love.

## IV) How are sinners made saints?

- A) God chooses them.
- B) Jesus' sacrifice cleans them - *Hebrews 9:14*.
- C) Once chosen and forgiven, saints are reformed to serve God.
- D) God directs all the steps to sainthood.
- E) Sainthood **cannot** be earned!

**Conclusion:** Through Jesus, all can become saints. The entire process is directed by our God who "inhabits eternity" (*Isaiah 57:15*), and guides the entire process, fully aware of the end from the beginning - *Isaiah 43:10*.