

“How I Can Become a Saint”

Romans 3:21-26

ILLY: New Orleans Saints ... any fans? Who'd like to be a “Saint”? Well, today, I'm going to show you how, and it's WAY easier than you think!

Cultural Definition of a “Saint”: A saint is a person who is recognized as having an exceptional degree of holiness or likeness or closeness to God.

Catholic Definition of “Sainthood”: A person who goes through a 5 step process of Canonization:

1. Die, then wait five years.
2. Become a “servant of God” with evidence of godliness.
3. Become “venerable” with evidence of drawing people into prayer.
4. Evidence of a single verified miracles resulting in prayer to the candidate, become “beatified.” (Alternate method: Martyrdom.)
5. Evidence of a second verified miracles (or first for the Martyr). Canonized, full sainthood.

New Testament Definition of a “Saint”: One who is set apart as holy unto God, that is, a *Christian*.

Romans 1:7, I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

A. Don't try the old way.

Romans 3:21, But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago.

Jeremiah 31:31-33, “The day is coming,” says the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife,” says the LORD. ³³ “But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day,” says the LORD. “I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

B. Ask, “Is this too good to be true?”

Romans 3:22-23, We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. ²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.

- Amazing Grace lyric: “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a *wretch* like me, I once was lost, now I’m found! Was blind, now I see.”
- You don’t even have to be good to be a saint! Sinner to Saint in less than a second with a simple prayer, “God, I’m nowhere close to where You want me to be, but I place my faith in Jesus and ask You to make me right in Your eyes. Amen.” ILLY: Hold up homemade halo over your head. “Boom! Sainthood!”
- Too good to be true?

C. Believe in Jesus.

Romans 3:24-26, Yet God, with undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood ... ²⁶ and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

God’s process toward sainthood:

1. God sees our sin and shows us undeserved kindness, GRACE.
2. God looks at the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.
3. God applies that sacrifice to our sin.
4. God declares we are righteous.
5. We are a saint.

You don’t have to dead. You don’t have to wait five years. You don’t have to perform miracles. You don’t have to pass a test. You just have to trust in Jesus as your Savior.

MAIN POINT: A sinner like me becomes a Saint by placing my faith in Jesus Christ.

A closing prayer ... “Dear God, it seems too good to be true. That you can take a sinner like me, just as I am, declare me righteous not because of anything I’ve done, but because of what Jesus did on the cross on my behalf. That truly is *amazing grace*. Help me to believe and embrace Your love, grace, and mercy in my life. In Jesus’ name, amen.”