

SINNER AND SAINT

5 Things to Know About Saints and 5 Things to Know About Sinners

Big Idea: We are 100% saint and 100% sinner.

Saints

1. Lutherans don't have to be burned at the stake to become saints.
2. Lutherans recognize all baptized people as saints.
3. Saints celebrate the forgiveness they receive through baptism.
4. Saints look forward to the promise of eternal life in Christ.
5. Saints strive to grow in faith and knowledge of God's presence and work in the world.

Sinners

1. We are born into this world as sinners.
2. As sinners, we all live in need, having fallen short of God's grace.
3. Being a sinner means that we are often tempted to play God in how we live and in how we deal with other people.
4. We must recognize our sinfulness in order to see our need for Christ.
5. We can't escape our innate sinful nature.

What three questions do you have about telling the difference between a saint and a sinner?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Bible Connection

What are some great presents you have received in your life? Besides all those surprisingly good birthday and Christmas gifts, you may have forgotten the gift we all received. Read about it in Romans 3:23–26. The writer of these words, St. Paul, opens our eyes to the gift of God's love that we received because of Jesus Christ. Is your heart always open to receiving God's gift? 100% yes (saint) and 100% no (sinner), right?!

Handbook Connection

Open *The Lutheran Handbook II* and read pages 186–187, "How to Tell the Difference Between a Sinner and a Saint." There's a wonderful question in #1—~~Can the finite bear the infinite?~~ Hold the Bible, a finite object in your hands. Open it to John 8:32. "And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ~~A wise promise from Jesus—infinitely powerful and instructive.~~ What do you think—can the finite bear the infinite?

My Life

Exercise the saint part of yourself by doing something really generous for someone. Play basketball with a neighbor kid, visit an elderly person who is lonely, wash the car, surprise someone with an act of kindness. It shouldn't be too hard to get started. After all, you're 100% saint!

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TRUE/FALSE QUIZ

Answer the following questions with “true” or “false.”

1. Christians are saints as long as they have a holiday named after them. T or F
2. Being a saint is a prerequisite for being a sinner. T or F
3. With vitamins, you can slightly modify the percentages of sinner-ness and saint-ness in yourself. T or F
4. In terms of sinners being saints, the finite can bear the infinite. T or F
5. Each of us is 100% saint and 100% sinner. T or F
6. All Christians agree with Lutheran theology about saints and sinners. T or F
7. Paul refers to early Christian community members as “saints.” T or F
8. Saints hang out in church; sinners hang out in gossip magazines. T or F
9. *Simul iustus et peccator* is a Latin term that means “God bless you.” T or F
10. Christians are saints by virtue of their baptism. T or F

Prayer: Dear God, because I am 100% saint, I can't hate myself for being all bad. Because I am 100% sinner, I can't think I'm always great, blameless, and an independent agent. Thanks for helping me keep this thing called life in balance. I need you. Amen.

Bible Verse: For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners. Matthew 9:13

Answers: 1. false 2. false 3. false 4. true 5. true 6. false 7. true 8. false 9. false 10. true