

Romans 1:8-13 Seven Traits of an Established Saint

In verses 4-7 Paul makes many wonderful statements about the grace of God and the wonderful things that we get to enjoy. Now, in verses 8-13, we can glean how we ought to live in light of those blessings.

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“First” = an anacoluthon

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“my God”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)

John 13:23 — Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

John 20:28 — And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

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“Through Jesus Christ”

Hebrews 4:14-16 — Seeing then that we have a great High Priest... Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace...

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“that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)

2. Public Faith (v8)

Acts 4:13 — Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:20 — “For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

Acts 4:31 — And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 17:6 — ...they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.

Acts 26:24-25 — “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason...

Acts 26:29 — “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am...

The Book of Acts is an account of normal Christianity.

Matthew 5:14–16 — “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

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“whom I serve with my spirit”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)

Serve = *latreuō*(λατρεύω); to perform sacred services, to offer gifts, to worship God in the observance of the rites instituted for his worship

Proverbs 4:18 — But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

*Wesley- “Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth.”

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Romans 10:2 — For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

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“the gospel of His Son”

Ephesians 3:8 — ...this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Philippians 2:12 — ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

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“without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)
4. Prayer Life (v9–10)

PAUL’S PRAYER LIFE:

- Persistent — “without ceasing... always” (v9–10)
- Personal — “making mention of you all” (v9)
- Purposeful — “that I may have a prosperous journey... to come to you” (v10)
- Passionate — “God is my witness”... “I long to see you” (v9–11)
- Providential — “in the will of God... by some means” (v10)

Psalms 126:5 — Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy.

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“so that you may be established”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)
4. Prayer Life (v9–10)
5. Properly Established (v11)

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Established = stērizō(στηρίζω); 1) to make stable, place firmly, set fast, fix; 2) to strengthen, make firm; 3) to render constant, confirm, one's mind

Ephesians 4:14 — that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

2 Peter 3:15-16 — ...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you... which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

-The Unstable = The Untaught

*Voddie- THE MODERN CHURCH IS PRODUCING PASSIONATE PEOPLE FILLED WITH EMPTY HEADS WHO LOVE THE JESUS THEY DON'T KNOW VERY WELL.

Romans 8:38-39 — For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Is this true for you?

-If not, then you must be persuaded.

Romans 10:14 — How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 — All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

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“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift...

-that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)
4. Prayer Life (v9–10)
5. Properly Established (v11)
6. Part of a Family (v11-12)

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*Wesley- “There is no such thing as a solitary Christian.”

Romans 12:4–6 — For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function... Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them...

1 Peter 4:10 — As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Corinthians 12:7 — But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.

1 Corinthians 14:12 — Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the Church that you seek to excel.

Ephesians 4:12 — for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

Either you have been given a gift by God, which is beneficial to me (and all,) or you are not a Christian.

Hebrews 10:24-25 — And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

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“I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now)”

7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)
4. Prayer Life (v9–10)
5. Properly Established (v11)
6. Part of a Family (v11-12)
7. Providence — God’s will, God’s way (v13)

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Romans 1:10 — making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

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Acts 16:6 — Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

-Acts 16:7 — After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

Proverbs 16:9 — A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

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Philippians 1:12-13 — But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

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“Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.”
— William Cowper

Isaiah 55:8–9 — “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13 — For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

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7 TRAITS OF AN ESTABLISHED SAINT

1. Personal Relationship with God (v8)
2. Public Faith (v8)
3. Passionate Service / Zeal (v9)
4. Prayer Life (v9–10)
5. Properly Established — grounded in truth, not unstable (v11)
6. Part of a Family — love & fellowship (v12)
7. Providence — God's will, God's way (v13)

Romans 16:25-27 — Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith— to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

