

Severe Sinner Shortage Seen

*A report by the Always-Right Reverend
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There has been a vicious, persistent rumor circulating in these parts that sinners are in short supply. Such a sinner shortage should cause concern in the region, and could have a disastrous effect on area churches.

In order to investigate this rumor, we sent our roving reporter, Miss Aplide, into the highways and byways in search of a sinner. The results were not conclusive, but provided some insight into the problem. In our less-than-scientifically-conducted interviews, we found that a full 40% of the individuals surveyed admitted to making mistakes, but did not consider themselves sinners. Another 20% actually admitted that at some point in their lives they had lied, but it was probably necessary, and not enough to be considered sin. 15% preferred the once-Presidential approach, keeping their lusts in their heart, and thereby excusing themselves. 20% were undecided, but were not sure what they were undecided about. Another 4% indicated that they certainly believed there were still a lot of sinners around because of the need for more jails, more police, more security, and more laws. However, they could not rightly say that they were personally acquainted with any.

One man, cursing as he kicked the tires on his sixty-seven Chevy Nova, which seemed indisposed to start, said that he might have sinned once, but it was so long ago it wouldn't count anymore. We found people who "tried their best," those that "weren't so bad," and some who were "as good as anyone else," but no-one who would admit to pride, lest it be considered sin. We found others who had "made mistakes," those who were suffering from "bad upbringing," and those who were in a bad way because they had to put up with other folks who thought they were perfect. But none of those people were sinners, or knew of any.

Now, being a Reverend Doctor, and speaking from a doctrinal point of view, I find all of this presents a tremendous difficulty. If there are no sinners left, we must face the fact that all of our problems are caused by righteous people. Further complicating the matter is the fact that we have no help for righteous people, because Jesus came "not to call the righteous, but sinners." Our reporter was extremely encouraged by the results of her investigation, and with the obvious fact that since sinners are so scarce, sin is in danger of being eradicated.. She became so enthralled in one interview with a lady who was "doing her best," that she failed to notice when a non-sinner made off with her

automobile. She'd left it running for just this one stop. She happened to leave her purse in the car and discovered, after the walk home, that some non-sinners had used her keys to gain entrance to her apartment and depart with some of her belongings. The lady next door, who was not a sinner either, had noticed the activity, but didn't want to become involved by calling the police. And besides, she had to get ready for a church function, or she'd be late again and be deemed unfaithful. We have not yet done enough study to determine why righteous people treat each other so badly, but we are looking into it.

If there are no sinners left, we should have a convention to try to determine what to do with all the church buildings that are no longer necessary. Perhaps we could use them to start "worship clubs." We could get all the "righteous people" to come on Sunday (once a week would be enough for righteous folks) and we could do a little singing and have someone get up and give a devotion of some sort about being nice to your fellow man, and how we'll all see each other "on the other side." Maybe we could shout and dance a little. It will make us feel good. That's about the best we can do for righteous folks, anyway, since one has to have sins in order to be saved from them. If there are no sinners, no salvation is available, so we don't need to invite anyone to repent and believe the gospel. Someone like Peter might have done that, but he had a lot of sinners to contend with back then. We'll just invite them to join our club. I think maybe we're beginning to get a handle on the problem. We won't have to talk about hell anymore, because only sinners go there, and we don't seem to have any. We won't have to witness for our faith anymore, because no-one sees the need to listen. If this progress continues, we could have heaven on earth within a short period of time.

So, according to our research, sinners are a species which is dangerously close to extinction. It may take an exhaustive, well-funded expedition to discover any at all. And if there happen to be any out there, you may really be up against it when it comes to solving your sin problem. You should be aware that if you are one, you are a very rare and special breed, because it is for you, the sinner, Christ died. No righteous need apply.

If you have an interest in studying this matter further, or in looking for sin or sinners, we are still issuing invitations. As Peter would say, "the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39

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