



**HOW TO
BE A CHRISTIAN
WITHOUT BEING
ANNOYING**

BETTE DOWDELL

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Bette Dowdell



How To Be A Christian Without Being Annoying

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INTRODUCTION

Defining “Christian” might seem like describing a snowflake. There appear to be as many definitions as there are Christians. You probably know Christians who have something wonderful going on in their lives, while others lack the peace they should have and compensate by bugging the tar out of you. What makes the difference? How can you tell what’s real?

Well, those questions are exactly why I wrote this book.

Christians, being people, are different from one another, but they have a common foundation, which the Bible describes in detail. Not everybody, though, understands all that’s in the Bible. Some make it up as they go. But when people attempt to be Christian by willpower alone, they find it doesn’t work—no matter how hard they try.

How To Be A Christian Without Being Annoying explains God’s sure foundation. It shows the way to latch onto something authentic and powerful. People might still be annoyed because we’re too tall, too short, too rich, too poor, whatever, but they’ll know we’re real.

This book has seventy-five, one-page “articles.” Each will give you something to ponder, as will the brief excerpt from the Bible that accompanies it. The excerpts are a Bible sampler and give you an idea of the sort of information you’ll find there. They come from different versions of the Bible to help you decide which version fits your style, and they let you know I didn’t make up the stuff in the articles.

Read the book in any order. Start at the beginning and read to the end or “dip in” here and there to read about particular topics. Either way, enjoy your trip through these pages.

Please send your comments and questions to me at bette@confidentfaith.com.

Bette Dowdell,
Phoenix, 2006

THE DADDY YOU ALWAYS DESERVED



Anyone who believes and says that Jesus is the Son of God has God living in him, and he is living with God. We know how much God loves us because we have felt his love and because we believe him when he tells us that he loves us dearly. God is love, and anyone who lives in love is living with God and God is living in him. And as we live with Christ, our love grows more perfect and complete...We need have no fear of someone who loves us perfectly; his perfect love for us eliminates all dread of what he might do to us.

- ☞ John's first letter, chapter 4, verses 15 through 18 (I Jn. 4:15-18)
- ☞ The Living Bible (TLB)
- ☞ Written in his later years by John, Jesus' youngest disciple. This letter was written shortly before he was exiled to the island of Patmos, in the Aegean Sea just west of what is now Turkey, where he lived out the rest of his life.

THE DADDY YOU ALWAYS DESERVED

God describes himself as our father. Unfortunately, this loving description may create an obstacle for anybody who had a hurtful earthly father.

For whatever reason, some fathers don't do the parenting job well, so their children grow up never knowing a father's love. As a consequence, they believe they have little or no value. If they had value, they reason, Daddy would have loved them.

They may experience what passes for a father's love as a control device to make them jump higher, try harder. And high is never high enough. Hard is never hard enough. Daddy means being not quite good enough.

Or it may be that nothing from their father remotely resembles love because he was abusive—physically, sexually, mentally, emotionally. Here, daddy means pain.

If you grew up with a daddy who loved you for sure, you have a tiny little idea of what God is like. If you grew up without such a daddy, you need to put away your idea of what daddy means and get it behind you.

God is the daddy you always deserved.

You were always worth loving. You're worth loving now. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, you'll still be worth loving. Until the end of eternity.

That's not to say God loves everything you do. The way you live your life may break his heart.

But God loves you.



A CHILD OF GOD



See how very much our heavenly Father loves us, for he allows us to be called his children—think of it—and we really *are!* But since most people don't know God, naturally they don't understand that we are his children. Yes, dear friends, we are already God's children, right now, and we can't even imagine what it is going to be like later on. But we do know this, that when he comes we will be like him, as a result of seeing him as he really is.

- ☞ John's first letter to the church at large, chapter 3, verses 1 through 2 (I Jn. 3:1-2)
- ☞ The Living Bible (TLB)
- ☞ John and his brother, James, both disciples of Jesus, came from a well-to-do fishing family. At the start of their time together, Jesus called them "sons of thunder" because of their explosive tempers.

