

# ***SAVED, SANCTIFIED, AND HARD AS NAILS***



Jim is saved and sanctified.

No doubt about it.

He'll tell you himself.

Jim will also tell you what he thinks of that world out there.

He despises panhandlers.

He is suspicious of black folks.

He rages against illegals.

He supports bombing and starving people in the name of God.

He has little sympathy with people who are poor.

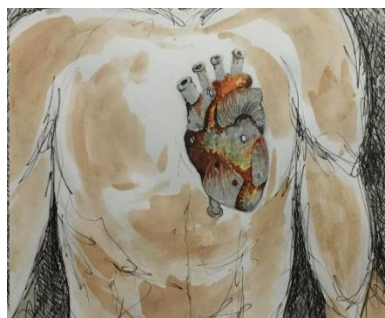
*"They're poor because they're lazy, just like it says in Proverbs."*

But Jim saves most of his wrath for Christians who don't see things his way.

Jim has lots of company.

In many circles it is quite acceptable to be saved and cynically angry at the same time.

**Has our love grown cold?**



What does it mean when we're saved and sanctified, but our love has grown cold?

It means that we are a branch that is no longer abiding in the Vine.

It is impossible to abide in the Vine and have a cold heart.

A cold heart is the sign of a broken connection with the Vine.

***“If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.”***

*John 15:6*



Jesus does not ask if we are saved and sanctified.

**He asks if we are walking in love, as he has commanded us.**

If our love has grown cold, it's time to drop everything and seek help from the Master.

***“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.***

***These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.***

***This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”***

*John 15:9,11-12*



If we are saved and sanctified and hard as nails, our salvation is in question.

If God's love is missing from our attitude toward people----all people--- our salvation is in question.

“Saved and sanctified” can be faked.

“Spiritual gifts” can be faked.

“Tongues” can be faked.

God's love can never be faked.

**That love is the only proof that God lives in us.**



***He who does not love does not know God; for God is love.***

***So we know and believe the love God has for us.***

***God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.***

*1 John 4:8,16*

*Prayer: Lord, forgive us for being hard as nails. Forgive us for being so confident in our views, for being so proud of our hardened hearts and attitudes.... that we miss your command to love others. Convict us when our love begins to grow cold, when our hearts towards the broken, the lost, the hurting, the ones we disagree with .... are hard, condemning, and in all ways unloving. Show us that without truly abiding in your love we will wither and die. Show us that without abiding in love we are useless, we can never bear fruit... no matter how perfect our beliefs and theology are. Show us that without love, we cut our very hearts off from you, the source of life. Show us what it is to abide in your love. Show us what it is to truly love others. Show us what it is to know you, to know you God, you who is love itself. Draw us so close to you that your love is coursing through us, making us healthy, useful, and able to bear the fruit of joy and bring your precious life to others. Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber November 2021

Featured Artist: Studies courtesy of Neil Breebaart at [ArtRefined.co.za](http://ArtRefined.co.za)

**Maranatha Mirror Messages**

[mmirror.net](http://mmirror.net)

[maranathamirror18@gmail.com](mailto:maranathamirror18@gmail.com)

586-530-6983



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WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN