

KJV). What that means is, when you put your faith in Christ, you share in His moral perfection, and it covers your sins. (The sinful wiring is still in you. Even after you've accepted Christ as your savior, you'll still sin, but it won't feel good anymore. You'll try more and harder to avoid sin. That's one way you can know you've become a Christian.)

Do you want to become a Christian? It's so simple, you might not believe me when I tell you how, so instead, here's what the Bible says:

“If you confess with your mouth that ‘Jesus is the Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9 NIV)

Right now, tell God in prayer that you know you need a savior and that you believe Christ alone can save you. Tell Him that you believe He bore your sins on the cross and rose again in victory over death. If you do that, my friend, and believe it in your heart, then God promises that you're part of His family. You are now a child of God, and He will never leave you nor forsake you. Ever. Amen.

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Another Fire Caused by Faulty Wiring

by David Barr

Imagine this: You're in bed. It's late at night, and you can't sleep. You think you smell something burning, but you've been all through the house and can't find any signs of smoke. That's because the smoke you smell is in the walls.

The wiring in your home is faulty. Now, you didn't build the house. And you didn't wire it. The previous owner did, but you've inherited the flaw. You're the one smelling smoke. Wishing circumstances were different will not solve the problem, and ignoring the problem is a guarantee that your home will burn.

If I warned you that your home were in danger—not through your own carelessness, but because I knew the electrical wiring was faulty—you would probably be grateful. You'd have had the time you need to take action to protect yourself, your family, and your belongings. If you took my warning seriously and found that indeed the wiring were faulty, you might think I was a hero. You'd certainly not take offense. Why would you?

Likewise, please take no offense when I warn you now that your *moral* wiring is faulty, and if you don't take steps to fix the problem, you will burn. How do

I know? Because my moral wiring is faulty too, and so is the wiring of every man and woman ever to live, except for Jesus Christ.

If you don't think your moral wiring is faulty, ask yourself this: When was the last time I did, said, or thought something that I regretted soon after? If you're being honest, probably not very long ago.

It will come as no surprise that you are not perfect. I am certainly not perfect. No one is. It's "human nature" not to be perfect. Even the most pious, holy people in history—full of faith and good works, charity and love—even they were not perfect. We are born that way, with faulty wiring. This truth is expressed in the Bible as: "There is none righteous, no not one."

The Bible uses the word "sin" to describe the fault in our moral wiring. But today, "sin" is a loaded word. People mistakenly believe that "sin" equals "evil." If you are a reasonably decent person by human standards, then you probably don't go around committing overtly evil acts. But that does not mean you are without sin. We sin each time we fall short of being "holy"—and holy means morally perfect. Far from "evil", sin is any word, deed, or thought that falls short of God's standard of perfection. We sin every day, consciously and un-

consciously.

We are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners. It is our condition. We inherited it from our parents, who inherited it from their parents, and so on back into the generations. Sin is perhaps the one element common to all of humanity throughout all time, regardless of race, religion, culture.

So, we all have this flaw in our moral wiring called sin. And what's more, we know in the depths of ourselves that we have this flaw, this "sinful" wiring if you will. You know you're not perfect and cannot stand on your own in front of a Holy God.

Now, wouldn't you like to fix your wiring? Of course you would. But the fact is, you can't. There is nothing you can do to change your nature. You can no more replace your moral wiring than you can replace your circulatory system. But God can, and He will if you simply ask Him to.

That's why God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world, to fix the flaw in our wiring. The Bible says that when we trust Christ, we inherit a new nature: "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17