

## It's What You Do

Ponder: Why Christians do what they do.

Scripture: "You will know them by their fruits . . . every good tree bears good fruit" (Matthew 7:16, 17, NKJV).

"If you're a parrot, you repeat things. It's what you do." You may recognize that line and several similar ones from ads run by a certain insurance company. They claim that if you want to save money, you buy insurance from them – "It's what you do."

I'm all for saving money, but right now I want to borrow their line to discuss why we do what we do as Christians. Jesus said a good tree bears good fruit. But why does it do that? In short, it's because that's its nature. If a tree bears bad fruit, there isn't much to do but cut it down.

When you became a Christian, you committed yourself to a life of learning about Jesus and imitating Him. As you continue with that process, you think and act more and more like Jesus. In short, your nature changes.

Before you came to Christ, you were living in sin. That way of life made you, by nature, a child of wrath (that is, you were subject to God's wrath, see Ephesians 2:3). But unlike a tree, your nature can change. When you turned from sin and became a Christian, you became a partaker "of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). That doesn't mean you are a mini-god! But your nature has changed so that you are thinking, and thus acting, more like Jesus and less like the sinful world.

Why did you assemble with the other members of the body last Sunday? If you are thinking like Jesus, you did so because it's your nature, not from rote commandment-keeping.

Why do you love your enemies? That runs contrary to worldly thinking; but if you have the mind of Christ, you love even your enemies because that's your nature. "It's what you do."

Why put generous sums of money into that nebulous thing called the church treasury? Why obey the speed limit? Why study the Bible regularly? For Christians, these and a thousand other similar questions have the same answer. It's not that someone is forcing us. It's our new nature. It's what we do.

Song: "O To Be Like Thee"

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for Jesus, Your precious Son and our Savior. Please make us more like Him. Help us to have His attitude, to think as He does, so that we will obey You willingly. In Jesus' name, Amen.