

16 Things to Be in 2016

by John Isaac Edwards

Peter penned, “...what manner of persons ought ye to be...?” (2 Pet. 3:11). “Be” occurs more than 7,000 times throughout the Bible. I’ve selected 16 of them to suggest **16 Things to Be in 2016:**

1) **Be a Christian.**

Agrippa said unto Paul, “Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28). So that you may have hope in heaven (Col. 1:5), I would like to persuade you to be a Christian in 2016, by hearing, believing and obeying the gospel of Christ (Rom. 10:13-17).

2) **Be Faithful.** The Lord said, “...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). Some become Christians, but do not remain faithful very long. Be like those in Hebrews 11 who, “...died in faith...” (v. 13).

3) **Be an Example.**

Whether you realize it or not, your life is an example to others — either good or bad! Commit to being what Paul

called upon Timothy to be: “...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Tim. 4:12).

4) **Be Strong.** Among admonitions given to early Christians is the command to “...be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1). As you hit the gym to get fit and lean in 2016, do not neglect strengthening the inner man (Eph. 3:16)!

5) **Be Holy.** 1 Peter 1:15-16 teaches, “But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”, a quote from Leviticus 11:44. God has always demanded that His people be holy!

6) **Be Thankful.**

Perhaps the majority of us are not as thankful as we ought to be. Remember the question Jesus asked, “...where are the nine?” (Lk. 17:17). 10 lepers were cleansed and only 1

returned to give Him thanks! Colossians 3:15 says, “...be ye thankful.” We have so much to be thankful for! “In every thing give thanks...” (1 Th. 5:18).

7) **Be Content.** Many seem to never be satisfied; they are always wanting more and more stuff! Paul said he learned, “...in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Phil. 4:11). He told Timothy, “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Tim. 6:8). Do you have food to eat and clothes to wear?

8) **Be Hospitable.** Hospitality literally means ‘love to strangers.’ Connected with brotherly love is, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb. 13:1-2). The Roman saints were taught, “...be given to hospitality” (Rom. 12:13). 1 Peter 4:9 still reads, “Use hospitality one to another without grudging.” How about giving yourself to some ‘old-fashioned’ hospitality in 2016?

9) **Be A Teacher.** “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers...” (Heb. 5:12). “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). The greatest work you can do for another is to teach them the word of God!

10) **Be Kind.** Be characterized by kindness. The Book teaches, “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Rom. 12:10). Again it is written, “And be ye kind one to another...” (Eph. 4:32). Remember the virtuous woman? “...in her tongue is the law of kindness” (Prov. 31:26). How about speaking kind words and practicing acts of kindness this year?

11) **Be Diligent.** Many are dilatory! They have the attitude, “We can do that tomorrow or we don’t have to

do it at all!” The diligent are careful and conscientious in their work. Their disposition is, “Why put off till tomorrow what we can do today!” When Peter talked about what manner of persons to be, he said, “...be diligent...” (2 Pet. 3:14). Let’s work on that!

12) **Be Spiritually Minded.** Paul discussed two mindsets: “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Rom. 8:5-6). Work on being spiritually minded this year!

13) **Be Humble.** Jesus declared, “And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Mt. 23:12). “Two men went up into the temple to pray” are a good example of this principle (Lk. 18:10-14).

As you dress for spiritual success, “...be clothed with humility...” (1 Pet. 5:5).

14) **Be Likeminded.** The Scriptures appeal to us to “...be likeminded...” (Rom. 15:5). “...that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind” (Phil. 2:2). The key to likemindedness is possessing the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5)!

15) **Be A Doer.** “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (Jas. 1:22-25). Don’t be a foolish builder; build “...upon a rock”! (Mt. 7:24-27).

16) **Be Ready.** Since the Lord will come “...as a thief in the night...” (2 Pet. 3:10), “...be ye also ready...” (Mt. 24:44).

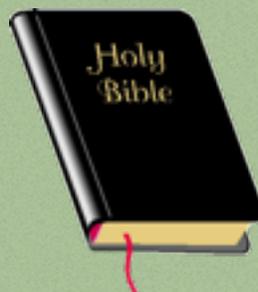
Be what manner of persons ye ought to be in 2016!

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