

# Arresting the Deacon

A man on his way home from a deacons' meeting found himself behind a driver who was proceeding extremely slowly down the road. The man honked impatiently in an effort to get the other driver moving or to pull over, but to no avail.

When the two vehicles stopped at a traffic light, the deacon took the opportunity to step out of his car and give the other driver a real tongue lashing. He didn't even notice the nearby police officer listening to him from behind. To his amazement, the officer arrested him, handcuffed him, and took him down to the police station.

The deacon continued to proclaim loudly his innocence and his frustration with the other driver, as he was first fingerprinted then photographed. After about an hour, the arresting officer came out and told the man he was releasing him. "I'm sorry, sir," he said. "I didn't mean to delay you. But when I heard what you said and saw your 'Honk if you love Jesus' bumper sticker and the cross and fish symbols on either side of your back window, I assumed the car must be stolen."



Quite a story about the need to match our behavior with our words!

A commonly heard expression is: *Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven.* It often appears on bumper stickers. While it is true that Christians are not perfect, people sometimes use that phrase to excuse their less-than-godly behavior. There is more to being a Christian than just being "forgiven." People who have a relationship with God are to exhibit characteristics of godliness.

– Beecher Hunter