

# 'Nominal' Christian In

By The  
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EAU GALLIE — Nominal Christianity just hasn't got what it takes.

There are two types of people I like to be around. I like to be around the guy who makes no pretense whatsoever about being a Christian. He's not proud of it, he simply admits that he's not a believer.

He probably honestly admits that he ought to be a Christian, but not now. He knows what I believe and I know what he believes...and we get along perfectly.

**THE OTHER** type of person I enjoy is the one who is totally dedicated to Christ. We may not agree doctrinally. We may be poles apart in our church relationship. We

may belong to different races. But we get along great because we love the Lord. There's no sweeter fellowship in the world than that which Christians enjoy together. No suspicion. No bitterness. No jealousy. No envy. We are brothers.

But I feel uncomfortable in the presence of the "nominal" Christian. He probably attends church and may even be

# Danger Of Reverting To

## PERSPECTIVE

a leader — but inside he is spiritually empty.

Nominal Christianity is the vaneer of Christian culture and custom that has been passed down in increasingly ineffective doses. You can almost see through it. It is the fruits of the faith without

the root — the form without the substance — the shadow without the reality.

**THE NOMINAL** Christian is like a wild animal that has been domesticated. Immediately under his thin vaneer lies his

unregenerate nature. And he's always in danger of reverting.

He's like the wild raccoon I had as a childhood pet. We had to keep him chained because the pull of the woods was too much for him. He had no inner breeding. And you never could tell when he might snap your hand or run away.

Nominal Christians are like this. Remove the

# 'Wild Animal'

restraints and anything can happen. Put them under stress or subject them to certain social chemistry such as a traffic jam, a convention, a negro-white encounter — and suddenly the vaneer is splintered and the real person explodes to the surface.

**PEOPLE** like this can bite your hand in a minute. They need to be bound by laws and reg-

ulations — do's and don'ts. They think that because they have to wear a chain and collar that everyone else should wear one also.

Authentic Christianity is not domestication — it is regeneration. It is not reformation — it is transformation. It is not the result of laws and church dogma, it is the supernatural work of the spirit of God.