

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“Our Calling from Above”

(1 Corinthians 1:1-9)

Twister: (kids) One foot in, one foot out = symbolic of the Christian life. Firmly planted in blessing, & world ☺

“**Already and Not yet.**” = You, us, The Church. Declared righteous, but striving to BE righteous. Already a follower of Christ, but Daily striving to become a more faithful follower of Christ. Living in the Kingdom of God, & Not Yet.

Context: Corinth, Port City, large trade city (Roman rebuilt, Greek, Jews, Near Easterners. Trade Route =populated with tourists & tradesmen (away from home). #1 export = Women of the Night (1000 ritual priestesses)

***Sin CITY = Korinthiazesthai** = “To behave like a Corinthian” **1 Cor. 6:9-10 Who’s Who list of sins**

- Paul writes to the Corinthian church he started w/ Priscilla & Aquila = pastoral theology (**PRACTICAL**)
- **Topics:** (Disunity, flesh/spirit, sin in the Ch., our heavenly rewards, marriage, singleness, divorce, gray areas, men/women’s roles in the home/Ch., Lord’s Supper, what is true love, sp. Gifts, the gospel, glorified bodies)
- Paul addresses the Corinthian Church as an **UNHEALTHY Church. = Loved the World. Influenced by it**
- Paul calls out sin (factionalism, moral looseness, confusion, theological heresy, unsaved, godless members)
- **Letter: How is the Church supposed to act. What does a healthy church look like? Do?**
- This series is about us **BECOMING** the Church God has called us into. We are the Church & We are **BECOMING** the Church = *Already, and Not Yet* = always growing, learning, changing, becoming.
- = A BUILDING Process, spiritual building, using the Word of God as our Blueprints.

****Main POINT: Have you responded to God’s Call in your life? Or are you still waiting for Him to call again? So, what is God’s Calling in my life?? Well, I thought you’d never ask ☺**

READ 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 – This is Paul’s Introduction

“Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ [a]by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, [b]saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours: 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 “I thank [c]my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed [d]in you, 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

***What Can we learn from this Introduction in the first part of this letter:**

“Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
2 To the church of God (Universal Church) which is at Corinth (Local context), to those who have been sanctified (being made holy) in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:

***What is Holiness?** Def. HOLY = Holy other, separate, unique, God-like, divine, Pure, moral goodness
Galatians 1:15-16 “¹⁵ But when God, who had *set me apart* even from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, was pleased ¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles”

- God calls us HOLY. Holy = Sanctus (Latin for Holy) = Saints, Sanctification, Sanctuary
- He declares us HOLY (righteous) = in right standing before God = (**Justification**) by Christ’s **Imputation**

*Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Justified = declared righteous by the ALL-Righteous God. = Through saving **FAITH**, **not** WORKS/LAW

In salvation, God saves us (rescues US from our self, from sin, from eternal damnation, from eternal separation) and He not only rescues us –God also declares we are Forgiven, we are Justified (made righteous) as He is=**HOLY**

Hebrews 12:12 “Therefore Jesus also, so that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered [died] outside the gate.”

1. So, God **Declares** us HOLY

Eph. 1:4 “For God chose us *in him* (Christ) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”

Col. 1:14 “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

- In 7 NT Letters, the church is addressed as those who are “SAINTS” (God’s Holy Ones).

2. God **Demands** that we be HOLY

“Be holy; for I, the Lord your God, am holy” (Leviticus 20:7, 1 Pt. 1:14)

1 Thess. 4:3 ‘this is the will of God, your sanctification’”

3. God **Helps** us be HOLY – by giving us His HOLY Spirit to live within us.

- Acts 2:38 “And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

-1 Cor. 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?”

-2 Cor. 1:21-22 “God anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

-2 Tim. 1:14 “Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.”

4. So, God **Calls** us HOLY, He calls us to be (become) HOLY, and our Calling is Holiness

2 Tim. 1:9 “He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”

Hebrews 3:1 “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus”

1 Thess. 5:23 “May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy”

Vs.⁵ that in everything you were enriched in Him, in all speech and all knowledge, ⁶ even as the testimony concerning Christ was confirmed [d] in you, - Has Christ’s testimony been confirmed in You?

Vs.⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, *In Christ*, we have everything we need: Life, hope, salvation, Holy Spirit, Peace, spiritual power, Truth, purpose

Vs.⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-*In Christ*, we have assurance of salvation, eternal security. He has saved us, and He has declared us righteous, God has declared us forgiven, adopted, HIS . . . and **nothing** can change that.

John 10:27-30 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all^q; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.” =double secure

...blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God sees us as Holy because His Son’s blood has covered us = we are declared blameless, righteous, holy = because God has made it so.

Romans 1:17 “For in the Gospel *the* righteousness of God is revealed, a righteous that is from faith to faith (or first to last); as it is written, “But the righteous *man* shall live by faith, = will live because of Faith.”

Martin Luther:

Our daily act of sanctification (God making us holy) is His daily mercy to change us from the old life (sin/flesh) into the NEW life (Spirit and Truth) – 2 Cor. 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has begun: The old has gone, the new is here!”

Vs. 9 **God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**" - In Christ, He calls us into daily fellowship

What is your Identity? (Not your job, not your grade, not your sport, not your craft) – **WHO ARE YOU?**
= **WHOSE ARE YOU?** (1 Cor. 6:20 "You are NOT Your own; You have been bought with a price")

What is your calling? (Not your duty, Not your burden, but your responsibility as a Follower of Christ?)

1. God calls us into **Salvation** (Romans 8:30; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pt. 5:10)
2. God calls us into **Fellowship** with Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 1:9)
3. God calls us into **Holiness** (1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:9; 1 Thess. 4:7; 1 Pt. 1:16) = Obedience = service
4. God calls us into **Freedom** (Gal. 5:13) = Peace (1 Cor. 7:15) = freely deny self, hold loosely, & suffer (1 Pt. 2:21)
5. God calls us into **Spiritual Maturity** (Eph. 4:13)

APPLICATION:

- **What is the last thing you heard God clearly say to your heart?**
- **When God calls, do you respond? Do you hear?**

When I preach, I preach for a FAITH Response: For Life-Change!

- **Response to salvation** (Death to Light)
- **Response to Conviction** (called back into repentance, Fellowship, holiness, restoration of relationships)
- **Response to Obedience** (What is the Lord instructing you to do NEXT, "Next steps of obedience")
= **obedience to (Serve, plug in, be baptized, give your testimony,**
- **What is your response TODAY?**