

November 29, 2021

## Are we the Holy Church God Called us to Be?

### 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9

*<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, <sup>2</sup> To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:*

In Corinthians, Paul writes to remind the church at Corinth that they are called *in Christ*, and that being called in Christ means that they are Holy. This community of believers had allowed their body to become defiled and divided. They had allowed the sins of the world to ensnare them so much that the true Gospel message, the real mission of the church, was being thwarted and forgotten. They were a disgraced church, not a holy one.

In this passage, Paul reminds and encourages them by pointing out the characteristics of a holy church. They are to be set apart by God (v. 1-3), enriched by God's grace (v. 4-6), living expecting Jesus to return (V. 7), and depending on God's faithfulness (v. 8-9). You see, God has given us Christ, and through him we can be sanctified; we can give testimony and perform service; we have the promise of Christ's return, and we have God's faithfulness to see us through.

If only we would remember who we are called to be – stop acting like the world – and start acting like the church!

During this season of Advent, let us reflect, meditate, and prayerfully consider where we are falling short of our calling in Christ – as individuals and within our community of believers. Perhaps, we have allowed sin to defile us. Maybe we have allowed differences to divide us. Could it be that individuals or groups are grappling for power within its members? Is it possible that we have become so caught up in “doing church” that we have forgotten to “be the church?”

We are called to be the church that loves God and loves neighbor; the church that spreads the gospel message above all else; the church that allows these ancient words to transform our lives; trusting and believing that in Christ we are made new and sanctified for joyful service to God our Father.

***Prayer:** Dear Father, we confess that we have failed to be the church you have called us to be; we have allowed ourselves to defiled and divided. We have lost focus on the true mission of the church. Forgive us Lord. Strengthen us, and help us. Allow these words of remembrance and encouragement to find fertile soil that will take seed and produce change in our lives. In Jesus' holy and precious name, Amen.*

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