

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

*“Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints**, with all who in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.” (1 Corinthians 1:2)*

WHAT A SAINT IS:

- Saint is related to and associated with sanctification and holiness. Fundamentally the word signifies “separation.”
- A person who is separated from sin and consecrated to God.
- The word always has the meaning of being set apart for God whether it occurs in the O.T. or the N.T.
- Both things and people can be sanctified for the glory of God. In regards to people: It is all of those who have repented of their sins and placed faith in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross that the title of “saint” applies.
- It is not just: St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John, St. Peter or St. Paul or any other of the people that we normally address by the title of “saint.” The title applies to *all* Believers.

WHAT A SAINT IS NOT:

- One who is sinless
- One who is of exceptional inner qualities
- A great philanthropist or a benevolent person
- Neither does the biblical definition of the word “saint” have to do with those who have died and were characterized by exceptional acts of kindness

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A SAINT?

- Called - It is a calling. (And, as such, it is initiated by and has its origins in God.)
- Define “calling” - To invite; to summons; to call to oneself; to bid to come.
- We have received: A divine call (by God) to partake in a spiritual blessing or blessings of redemption.
- We have been called by God “from one place to another.” (See “*A CALL FROM SINNER TO SAINT*” below)

Sainthood is bestowed upon us by the triune God. (Each Person in the Godhead plays a part in our sanctification)

- God, the Father – Called us to be saints (Romans 1:7) “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”
- God, the Son – According to Hebrews 2:11, Jesus Christ is the Sanctifier of His people. (“For both He (Jesus) that sanctifieth and they (us who are sanctified are all of One (God) for which cause He (Jesus) is not ashamed to call them brethren.)
- God, the Spirit – who Himself is designated as “Holy” Spirit indwells the Believer at the moment of regeneration. (Romans 8:9, 11)

The sanctification process is an answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:17. “Sanctify them through the truth, the Word is truth.” Agent of sanctification: the Word of God.

Believers are “being sanctified” by the work of the Spirit of God, through the Scriptures. *(This is an ongoing, right now work that will continue until death. At death, the work of the sanctification of the believer will be completed.)*

Ephesians 5:25 – 27. *“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it, That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but that it should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH.”*

A CALL FROM “SINNER” to “SAINT”

- We once were “sinners.” That’s who and what we were before redemption. (Unbelievers, Unrighteous, Wicked, those who were “Without God, Without Christ and Without Hope)
- Now, this is a horrible thing, to be a sinner. Although, it may not appear to be as such, right now. But, *to be a sinner* and *to die a sinner* is to be eternally separated from God; and to have to personally endure the wrath of God. There is nothing worse than to live and then to die “a sinner”.
- Sinners: A biblical term describing one who offends and transgresses against the laws of God.

Scripture References:

- 1 Peter 2:9, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light.**”
- Eph 5:8, “For ye were **sometimes darkness, but now ye are light in the Lord.** Walk as children of light.”
- Col 1:13, “He hath **delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son.**”

THE HUMAN SIDE – OUR RESPONSIBILITY

As saints, we are to cleanse ourselves from all defilement, hating evil, forsaking sin and to live a holy manner of life. Both on the inside/our thoughts and minds; and on the outside our actions.

***The same God who “called us” to be saints,
calls us also to live in accordance with our calling as saints***

- 2 Corinthians 7:1 – Having, therefore, these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- Ephesians 4:24, “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

NOT AN EASY TASK – BUT, GOD PROVIDES HELP FOR THOSE WHO SEEK HIM:

Through prayer, seek God’s grace (the will and power to do His will).

WHY GOD CHOSE US – WHAT PURPOSE DID HE HAVE IN MIND?

Ephesians 1:3, 4 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessing in heavenly place in Christ according as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, **THAT WE should BE HOLY and WITHOUT BLAME** before Him, in love.