

1 Cor 1:1-9 - Called into the Fellowship of the Son

Called to be SAINTS

1Co 1:1-13 ESV Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the **church of God** that is in Corinth, to those **sanctified** in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints** together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **both their Lord and ours:**

WE are called SAINTS - called to be Holy - **Sanctification is the process that moves us to live a holy life** --- sanctification will always be transformative

Sanctification is an EVENT

- Heb 13:12 ESV So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to **sanctify** the people **through his own blood**. (Act 26:18 - by faith in Jesus) (Heb 10:10 through his body)

Sanctification is an ongoing PROCESS

- Heb 10:14 ESV For by a single offering he has perfected for all time **those who are being sanctified**. (1Th 5:23-24 sanctify you completely, blameless at His coming)

Is there a role that I play?

- 2Ti 2:21-22 ESV Therefore, if anyone **cleanses himself** from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, **set apart as holy [KJV sanctified]**, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work. 22 So **flee** youthful passions and **pursue** righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along **with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart**.

They are given GRACE

3 **Grace** to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the **grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus**, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge-- 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you-- 7 so that **you are not lacking in any gift**, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 **who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

Grace

Sometimes grace speaks of our salvation (Eph 3:8 Saved by grace through faith)

Many times like in vs 3 - Grace is a typical greeting

But in vs 4 Grace given you in Christ Jesus - is speaking of spiritual gifts (defined in vs 5-7)

- 1Pe 4:10-11 ESV As each has received a **gift**, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of **God's varied grace**: 11 whoever **speaks**, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever **serves**, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies.....

- 1Co 3:9-10 ESV For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 10 **According to the grace of God given to me, like a *skilled master builder* I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it.**

The grace of God given in Christ is that they are not lacking in ANY gift as they WAIT for His coming

Central Theme - You were called - I appeal to you

9 God is faithful, by whom **you were called** into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 10 **I appeal to you**, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. 11 For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. 12 What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

The appeal is there because there is gap between CALLING and REALITY

- THE CALLING -- they were called into the fellowship of His Son
- THE REALITY -- this truth was NOT governing their lives
- So Paul APPEALS to them to walk in the reality of their calling

Later in the book he will write these things

CALLING they are called to be holy, -- here is the REALITY

- 1Co 6:15-17 ESV Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? **Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?** Never! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he **who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.**

TRUTH they are endowed with EVERY spiritual gifts -- the REALITY - not governed by love

- 1Co 12:31 ESV But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.
- 1Co 13:1-3 ESV If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, **I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.** 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing.** 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, **I gain nothing.**

TRUTH - Christ will sustain them to the end, guiltless on the day of the LORD - here is REALITY - because immorality was rampant, and they were arrogant rather than mourning, Paul warns them to continue in this way is to jeopardize their standing

- 1Co 5:1-5 ESV It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you.....5 you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, **so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.**
- 1Co 6:9-11 ESV Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived:** neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, **nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.** 11 And such were some of you. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

How wide is the GAP between what God has called you, and what you are walking in?

Truth - you are called to be holy (What is the reality? How wide is the gap?)

- 1Th 4:3-8 ESV For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that **each one of you know how** to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles **who do not know God**; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, **but in holiness.** 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, **disregards** not man but **God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.**

Truth - you have been gifted by the LORD - (what is the reality of your love?)

- Most of the issues they faced in Corinth could be resolved if they embraced the LOVE OF GOD as described in 1 Corinthians 13

Truth - you have been called into the fellowship of the Son (Is that governing your life?)

- Most of the issues they faced in Corinth could be resolved If they simply realized they have been **called into the FELLOWSHIP of the SON** and they would let that truth dictate their life