

The Status of Saint

I Corinthians 1:1-3

Introduction:

- A. What do you think of when you hear the word “saint”
1. It is often used to refer to someone who is extremely g_____.
 2. It has been used to refer to a person who does great r_____ deeds.
 3. It is used to refer to certain dead believers who carry p_____ to God (they had to qualify)
- B. In Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians, he calls those within the c_____ saints.
1. They were a t_____ church.
 2. Here we learn what being a saint means.

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (NAS)

The status of saint is not by your c_____

- A. Correcting a possible misunderstanding
1. Some translations use the word h_____ instead of the word saint.
 2. Some translations read that God calls us TO BE saints or TO BE His holy people.
 - a. This can possibly be misunderstood to mean that this is what God w_____ us to be but not what we necessarily are.
 - b. The Greek text tells us what believers are in God’s sight – saints or His holy people.
 3. What was the character of the people at Corinth?
 - a. They came out of a p_____ background which had religious festivals filled with drunkenness and sexual looseness.
 - b. Many had s_____ problems that Paul had to address, yet he called them saints.
- B. Application
1. Do you struggle with certain sins? Are you striving to overcome them? – see I Jn 3:9
 2. Many unbelievers strive to overcome wrong behavior (e.g. drunkenness, drugs). But their reason is d_____ (get driver’s license back, keep their job, fix their marriage, etc).
 3. Why do believers strive to overcome sin?
 - a. Primarily, to h_____ the Lord.
 - b. Secondly, because of how it adversely affects others.

The status of saint is only by God's c _____

A. Background on the word saint

1. It was used in Paul's day to refer to t _____ prostitutes.
2. It meant anyone set apart from the world to s _____ a god.
3. Paul uses the term to refer to believers whom God has set apart from the unbelieving w _____ to serve Him.

B. What makes a believer holy or a saint? – we have been sanctified (set apart to serve God) in C _____

1. This is an ongoing status that never c _____.
2. What sets us apart (makes us different) from the rest of the world (our r _____ to Jesus).
3. How does a person become a saint? – by God's c _____
 - a. This refers to the call of s _____ - God convicting us of our sinfulness and bringing us into a relationship with Jesus.
 - b. The word church literally means, "c _____ out ones."
4. When a person initially c _____ upon the name of the Lord Jesus, they are responding to God's call to salvation. But a true believer continually calls upon the Lord's name, because we need Him e _____ day.

Conclusion:

A. Paul concludes the opening of the letter with g _____ and peace.

1. This is not a w _____ but an exclamation of fact.
 - a. Salvation is by g _____ – Eph 2:8
 - b. We are at p _____ with God through Christ – Rom 5:1
2. Every saint (those called by God to serve Jesus) has both grace and peace.

B. Have you called upon Him to be your Lord and Savior? Are you continuing to call upon Him in living your life?