

# Sermon Reflections

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*You Call This a Church? Part 1* • 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Summary: Take courage in how Christ has favored you, so you can be ready to be confronted and changed.

***The Church's Favored Calling... Paul begins his letter by assuring the Corinthians of their identity in Christ. When a believer is confident that he belongs to God, as His son, he will be encouraged to receive discipline and be changed.***

## 1. Embrace how God sees you (1 Cor. 1:1-3)

- You Are a Commanded People (vv. 1-3)

Paul addresses the Corinthians as one with authority. What authority? And what was its source? What was Paul's history with the church at Corinth? In what way does Paul's authority affect you?

Why does he mention Sosthenes, and what is his relationship to the church at Corinth?

In what ways does Paul assure the Corinthians of their identity, and why is this so important in light the entire letter? Discipline can bring shame and discomfort, but how can it increase a sense of security? Can you offer a specific example of this in your life?

- You Are The Church of God (v. 2a)

Compare and contrast the church universal (invisible church) and the visible church. What is the relationship between them? Which one is Grace Bible Church?

What are some reasons people of the local church should "gather together?" What were some of the temptations facing that local church just because it was in the city of Corinth in the first century? How can the devil use these same temptations to undermine a local body in any era of history? (Romans 12:1-2) In what ways have you felt this temptation?

- You Are a Consecrated People (v.2b)

What does "sanctified" mean? And "saint?" On what basis can God call believers holy? What are "positional holiness" and "progressional holiness"? Discuss the illustration Pastor Zaman shared about a prostitute marrying a king, and its relevance to your relationship with Christ.

- You Are a Community Of Grace (v. 2a-3)

Who needs grace? Can a "believer" hold to some doctrines that you don't believe and still be God's child? Does God see them as holy? Who do you think you are better than? (Be specific in your thoughts.) What are some scripture verses that can help you correct your attitude? (e.g. Rom. 12:3, Phil. 2:3-4) Why do our elders pray for other local churches even though they believe differently? How can we go wrong if we want to "get our theology right"?