

Who We Are

1 Corinthians 1.2-9

We have finished studying the book of John, seeing how a touch by Jesus is able to change lives. We know what Jesus means to us, what he can mean to the world that is lost and searching, and the hope he holds for those who believe. Yet, where do they look? There are many places that one might look, but do they know to look for Jesus? Supposing they do know to look for God, through Jesus, how might one look? He is not tangible. He can't be heard like you hear me. He can't be seen like I can see you. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount was all about how we are to act. Mostly as individuals.

But what about here? How should we be? What shape, what model should the church, the Children of God be? For that, we are today and for next several weeks, we will be looking at a church that had some good and some bad. So Paul wrote this letter as a reminder of who they are. We will look at who this church is, and SEE who we are.

Who are we? We are the Holy Children of God. What makes us holy?

1. We are Set Apart (2)
 - a. Church comes from Greek word, "set apart group", as with Israel being set apart, and Levites within Israel to serve God, so we are.
 - b. Sanctified is also another term used for "set apart". Paul's opening has a double reminder.
 - c. We are in Christ Jesus along with everyone else everywhere else who call on the Lord's Name. Why missions is important, to help remind us, tangibly that we are not alone.
2. We are Equipped (3-7)
 - a. Grace – it is forgiveness of wrong, being given what we do not deserve. Grace brings us a freedom from guilt and despair. It is by grace that we choose to get along with one another, despite times of hurt.
 - b. Paul continues saying we have everything we need, yet fully. One might ask, was it because this church had lots of people?
 - c. No, but because the testimony was confirmed in them. The Word was given to them. The Word is given to us, the Bible.
3. We are Expectant (7-9)
 - a. Paul uses the word eagerly awaiting Jesus.
 - b. Why not? Biggest topics in this book is marriage, and here, we are called into fellowship. We are looking for Jesus' return.
 - c. Therefore we must not be distracted by world's concerns.

When we start living holy lives, because we know who we are, then we shall see how we must be, and the world looking, will see God through us.