

I Am a Saint

Selected Scriptures

This fall at The Bridge, we're wrestling with the profound question: *Who Do You Think You Are?* Last week we saw that we can either struggle through life trying to find, figure out, and/or forge our own identity (not a very pretty process)...OR we can turn to God and let *Him* tell us who we really are.

When we do the latter, what we discover is breath-taking...and life-changing! Through faith in Jesus Christ, we actually become new people! In Christ, we are given new life, a new identity, a new purpose, a new calling and new power! Today, we'll see that in Christ, we are no longer "sinners," doomed to screw up and fail. Rather, we are SAINTS, chosen by God and set apart for Him and for His holy purposes.

A "saint" is...

We become saints by...

We live as saints by...

In Christ, we are saints—chosen and set apart by God for His holy purposes.

This 2nd message in The Bridge's sermon series *Who Do You Think You Are?* is by Len Woods [9-15-13].

Amazing Grace! From Sinners to Saints!

A concise summary of what we mean when we say, "God has set us apart/made us saints"...

Sinners "in Adam"	Saints "in Christ"
Spiritually dead /separated from the life of God (Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-5; Colossians 2:13)	Spiritually alive ! Regenerated with the life of God (John 5:24; Romans 6:11-13; Ephesians 2:5; 1 John 5:11-12)
God's enemies (Romans 5:10; Colossians 1:21-22)	God's friends , His adopted, reconciled children , living in peace with Him (John 1:12; Romans 5:1, 10-11).
Condemned under God's wrath (John 3:18; Romans 5:18; Ephesians 2:3)	Pardoned through God's love and mercy (Ephesians 2:4; Romans 5:5, 9; 8:1)
Living in darkness (John 3:19-21; 12:35-36, 46; Ephesians 5:8)	Walking in light (John 8:12; Acts 26:18; Colossians 1:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:5; 1 Peter 2:9)
Kingdom of Satan (Luke 11:14-18; Ephesians 2:2)	Kingdom of God (Colossians 1:12-13)
In bondage to sin, Satan, and our fallen nature (Romans 7; Ephesians 2:3; 2 Timothy 2:26; Titus 3:3)	Free to follow the Spirit's promptings (Romans 6:11-14; Galatians 5:13)
A guilty conscience (Romans 4:6-8; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:22)	A clear, clean conscience (Hebrews 9:14; 10:22)
Hard , unresponsive hearts (John 12:37-40; Ephesians 4:17-19) incapable of obeying God (Romans 3:10-12)	New hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:25-27; 2 Corinthians 3) with God's law written on them and infused with power to live as God desires
Unwilling and unable to honor God (Romans 1:18-32; 3:23)	Willing and able to live for God's glory (Isaiah 43:7; Ephesians 1:12)

"So Great a Salvation!"

Condemnation: The biblical declaration that as sinful rebels against a holy God, we deserve nothing less than His wrathful judgment (John 3:18; Romans 5:18).

Propitiation: The act of turning away divine wrath through an offering. Theologically, Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (in our place and for our sin) fully and finally satisfied God's righteous wrath and turned it away from sinners who trust in Christ to save them (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2).

Imputation: The theological term for God's charging a believer's sin to Christ and crediting that believer's "spiritual account" with Christ's own righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Martin Luther called this "the Great Exchange," Christ, the righteous One becoming sin, so that sinners might become righteous in Him.

Justification: The divine act in which God legally declares guilty condemned sinners "not guilty" by virtue of their faith in the perfect work of Christ (Romans 5:1, 9).

Regeneration: The theological term that means *to bring to life* and describes God's gracious, supernatural impartation of spiritual life at the moment of salvation to those who previously were spiritually dead and incapable of knowing or pleasing God (Ephesians 2:1-10)

Sanctification: The act of "setting apart / making holy," this refers both to (1) the moment-in-time act of God graciously making us new, holy creatures in Christ at salvation (1 Peter 1:2; Hebrews 10:10, 14); and (2) the lifelong process of us *becoming* holy in word, thought, and deed through the power of God's Word and the indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 4:3).

Reconciliation: The theological term that describes sinful creatures being brought back into a right relationship with their holy Creator through the saving work of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Glorification: The truth that one day we will not only be saved from the *penalty* of sin (justification) and from the *power* of sin (sanctification), but also from the very *presence* of sin. When we meet Christ we will be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is (1 John 3:2).