

Higher Ground

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Context

Some of the Corinthian membership had civil complaints against one another and they were seeking to settle their differences in what Paul characterizes here as the secular court system. Paul sees this as beneath them. Why would the saints of God stoop to the discerning judgments of the world? Why would the Godly seek the counsel of the ungodly?

Members of the church will, one day, judge men, judge the world, and even angels. The carnal cannot be allowed to judge the spiritual. The carnal cannot discern nor understand the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12–14 ¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, ¹³which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words. ¹⁴But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

When God saves us, He lifts us up to live on a higher plain. He sets our feet on higher ground!

This is not about being better than others, its about being united with God. Our union with God separates us from the world. God makes saints out of sinners.

A saint is one which has been made a partaker of God's nature; one who is consecrated unto the Lord through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. If God is separated from the sinful world, then so is His children also.

The difference is Jesus Christ! He makes the vilest center clean and imparts unto them His righteousness and fills them with the Holy Spirit of God. The evidence of this was clearly seen in the cesspool city of Corinth.

Such Were Some of You

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 ⁹Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

- Washed – spiritually clean; past sins removed and taken away;
- Sanctified – the purpose of washing; to be made worthy to be used by God; fully belonging to Him.
- Justified – sin's debt has been paid; to be made just; to stand righteous before God.
- In the name – in the authority and power of; "To them He gave the right to become children of God." (John 1)
- Jesus Christ – the new birth only happens by the accomplished work of Jesus Christ.
- In the Spirit of our God – the Holy Spirit is the administrator of the work and power of salvation. He is God who works in us to accomplish the will of God. Our body is His temple. The church is His dwelling place.

We were a part of this world, which is filled with spiritual darkness, but God called us to come out and then He placed us in His marvelous light. Our life, existence, and knowledge, now, transcends this world.

Raised and Seated With Christ

We have been set on higher ground; let us walk on higher ground!!!

Ephesians 2:6 (God has) raised us up with Him (Jesus) and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

As He rose from the dead, so have we been raised to life from our lifeless existence under sin. God's calling is an upward calling. God has called us to live as heavenly citizens for that is what we are!

We are not as the old saying goes, "so heavenly minded that we are no earthly good." Our spiritual life is not lived out in mysticism and/or sensationalism.

The Spirit Led Life

To be led by the Spirit of God is to obey the word of God through this flesh. By the Spirit, we put to death the deeds of the body.

Romans 8:12–14 ¹²So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, **you will live.**

NOTE: Who wants to live? The life lived by the Spirit is a victorious life! It is an abundant life! It is an eternal life transcending the life lived in the flesh. Yes, we live this life on higher ground!

¹⁴For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God!

The saints of God are seated with Christ in the heavenly places. We are participants in His resurrection; His victory and His glory we share. If we suffer with Him, we will also, with Him, inherit all things. We are joint heirs with Christ. Therefore, Live this life on the Higher Ground by Seeking to serve and glorify Him.

No Longer Mastered by Sin

We live in a sinful body, this flesh, has a sinful nature. The one who says that he is without sin is a liar. However, we have been set free from sin's power and dominance over us. We have been redeemed! "If we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin, and we have fellowship one with another." (1 John 1)

Living Life on Higher Ground

Colossians 3:1–4 ¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

This earth is not our home. This life in the flesh is not our destiny. Our life awaits its eternal redemption at the return of Christ. Set your mind on the things above. Live and think on higher ground. We must not be carnally minded.

The Biblical Church

This was the reality of the church in its infancy. They gathered daily in the temple. They assembled at every opportunity. They ate chicken together and many other meals from house to house. They worshipped, witnessed, and served with fervency and joy in the midst of persecution. They were a city on a hill. The hill was the higher ground of the righteousness of Christ.