

“Called to be Saints”

Pastor Al Brice | Sunday, June 28, 2020

1 Corinthians 1:2 NKJV: To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.

A. Who are the saints of God?

* This is not some exclusive club, or an extraordinary set of people chosen by a religious leader to be enshrined as a saint. A true Biblical saint is an ordinary Christian who lives an extraordinary life and does extraordinary things because he or she knows who they are!!

The Church in the book of Acts:

- How did they have such a profound impact upon the pagan world in which they lived?
- It was because they were what they were. (**Acts 17:6 NKJV**)
- It was not their organization; it was the quality of behavior, the characteristics of their life, and operating in the power they possessed. (**Acts 2:42-47 NKJV**)

B. What does being a saint really mean?

1. **Saint** (Greek *Hagios*): it means, ‘people who are set apart and separated for God’s purposes, morally pure, upright, blameless in heart and life, virtuous, holy.’

a. Old Covenant:

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NKJV: ⁶ “For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. ⁷ The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

b. **New Covenant:**

* **Ephesians 1:17-19 NKJV:** ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

* **1 Peter 2:9-10 NKJV:** ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a **holy nation**, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

* **“Holy Nation”** means: ‘Chaste, pure, and its fundamental idea is separation, consecration, devotion to the service of God, sharing in God's purity and abstaining from earth's defilement.’

2. A **saint** is one that is cleansed, delivered out of the world, separated from the world (its lifestyle, actions, conduct, behavior, and conversations; a saint is in the world but not of it anymore, there is a separation which has taken place in your mind, your outlook, in your heart, in your conversation, and behavior.)

* **Hebrews 9:14 NKJV:** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

* **2 Corinthians 6:14 - 7:1 NLT:** ¹⁴ Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said:

“I will live in them
and walk among them.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.
¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers,
and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD.
Don't touch their filthy things,
and I will welcome you.
¹⁸ And I will be your Father,
and you will be my sons and daughters,
says the LORD Almighty.”

¹ Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God.

3. What is my responsibility as a saint before God?

* **Romans 12:1-2 AMP:** Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies [dedicating all of yourselves, set apart] as a living sacrifice, holy and well-pleasing to God, which is your rational (logical, intelligent) act of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

* **Philippians 2:12-16 AMP:** ¹² So then, my dear ones, just as you have always obeyed [my instructions with enthusiasm], not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to work out your salvation [that is, cultivate it, bring it to full effect, actively pursue spiritual maturity] with awe-inspired fear and trembling [using serious caution and critical self-evaluation to avoid anything that might offend God or discredit the name of Christ]. ¹³ For it is [not your strength, but it is] God who is effectively at work in you, both to will and to work [that is, strengthening, energizing, and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfill your purpose] for His good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do everything without murmuring or questioning [the providence of God], ¹⁵ so that you may prove yourselves to be blameless and guileless, innocent and uncontaminated, children of God without blemish in the midst of a [morally] crooked and [spiritually] perverted generation, among whom you are seen as bright lights [beacons shining out clearly] in the world [of darkness], ¹⁶ holding out and offering to everyone the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to rejoice greatly because I did not run [my race] in vain nor labor without result.