

Activating Our Position in Christ

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Church's Position

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV) — Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes

The Apostle Paul always had people with him...

He was always enlisting people to lead alongside him...

Here we meet a man named Sosthenes...

Who is he?

Acts 18:8 (ESV) — Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

Crispus was replaced by none other than Sosthenes!

So, what is his story?...

Paul remained in Corinth for 18 months preaching Christ crucified...

Tensions continued to rise between Jews and Christians and finally came to a head...

Acts 18:12–17 (ESV) — But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal, saying, “This man is persuading

people to worship God contrary to the law.” But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint. But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.” 16 And he drove them from the tribunal. And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

Apparently, Sosthenes was becoming more and more convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, ... or at least he was showing sympathy towards the Christians...

As a result, apparently some of the more religious and angered Jews took out their anger on him...

Probably after that beating, Sosthenes knew his leadership at the synagogue was over ...

Following this harsh treatment, Sosthenes gave his life to Jesus and joined Paul and the Church in Corinth!

In this Paul more than likely took Sosthenes in and he became one of Paul's disciples and co-workers...

1 Corinthians 1:2–3 (ESV) — To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and

ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want us to focus on a couple of words here...

1 Corinthians 1:2–3 (ESV) — To the **church** of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called** to be saints together with all those who in every place **call** upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

First, let's look at the word, "CALLED"

We see it twice here... but also several other times in Chapter 1...

I want to give you FOUR ways this word is used here in 1 Corinthians 1...

➤ ***The Lord INVITES the person***

1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV) — God is faithful, by whom you were **called** into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Κλητός Clatos – “to be summoned by invitation”

➤ ***The person INVOKES the invitation***

1 Corinthians 1:2b (ESV) — ... together with all those who in every place **call** upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

ἐπικαλέομαι (epikaleomai) – “To appeal for assistance, to invoke the earnest need for aid”

➤ ***The Lord INVESTS into the believer***

1 Corinthians 1:2a (ESV) — To the **church** of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called** to be saints ...

1 Corinthians 1:23–24 (ESV) — but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are **called**, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

➤ ***The Lord INVOLVES the believer***

1 Corinthians 1:26 (ESV) — For consider your **calling**, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV) — Paul, **called** by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes

κλησις (Clasis) – “to urgently invite someone to accept responsibilities for a particular

task, implying a new relationship to the one who does the calling”

1 Corinthians 1:4–9 (ESV) — I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

If we didn’t have verses 1-9 included in 1 Corinthians chapter 1, we would think this group was nothing more than a ...

- ***Hopeless case...***
- ***Lost cause...***
- ***False church...***
- ***Failed attempt***

But with these first nine chapters we realize that this church, in many ways, represents every Church residing in a modernized, affluent culture... In other words... the American Church...

Paul went to Corinth shortly after his time in Athens (Acts 17).

If you remember, in Athens Paul attempted to persuade the intellectuals by using their “Unknown god” as a springboard for presenting Jesus...

He was somewhat successful, but overall not too successful...

Acts 17:32–34 (ESV) — Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.” So Paul went out from their midst. But some men joined him and believed, among whom also were Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris and others with them.

So Paul left Athens...

Acts 18:1 (ESV) — After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

When he arrived in Corinth he used a different tactic of preaching Christ crucified along with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power...

1 Corinthians 2:1–5 (ESV) — And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the

Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Paul was not preaching in “fear and much trembling” for fear of being arrested, beaten, imprisoned, or killed...

➤ **CONVINCED to the VALIDITY of the Gospel**

1 Corinthians 1:4–6 (ESV) — I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you

Again, remember what Paul says about the Gospel he proclaimed when he came to Corinth...

1 Corinthians 2:4–5 (ESV) — And my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Romans 15:19 (NLT) — They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God’s Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

➤ **CONFIRMED by the REALITY of the Gospel**

1 Corinthians 1:6–7a (ESV) — Even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift ...

The body of believers are apportioned gifts for both the confirmation and demonstration of their salvation!

Later in this letter Paul compares the difference between him and those false teachers...

1 Corinthians 4:20 (ESV) — For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.

➤ **CONTINUES until the FINALITY of the Gospel**

1 Corinthians 1:7–9 (ESV) — So that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This morning in my One Year Bible reading I was reading in 1 Corinthians 13...

1 Corinthians 13:8–10 (NLT) — Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless.

August 18, 2021

Crossgates – Sermon

David Jett

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT) — Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

Activating Our Position in Christ
1 Corinthians 1:1-9
The Church's Position

1. The _____ with the _____

2. The _____ and the _____

- **The Lord _____ the person**
- **The person _____ the invitation**
- **The Lord _____ into the believer**
- **The Lord _____ the believer**

3. The _____ of the _____

- _____ **to the _____ of the Gospel**
- _____ **by the _____ of the Gospel**
- _____ **until the _____ of the Gospel**