

"WHAT IS THE CHURCH" - PART 3

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

(AND SOME OTHER STUFF TO THINK {SERIOUSLY}
ABOUT

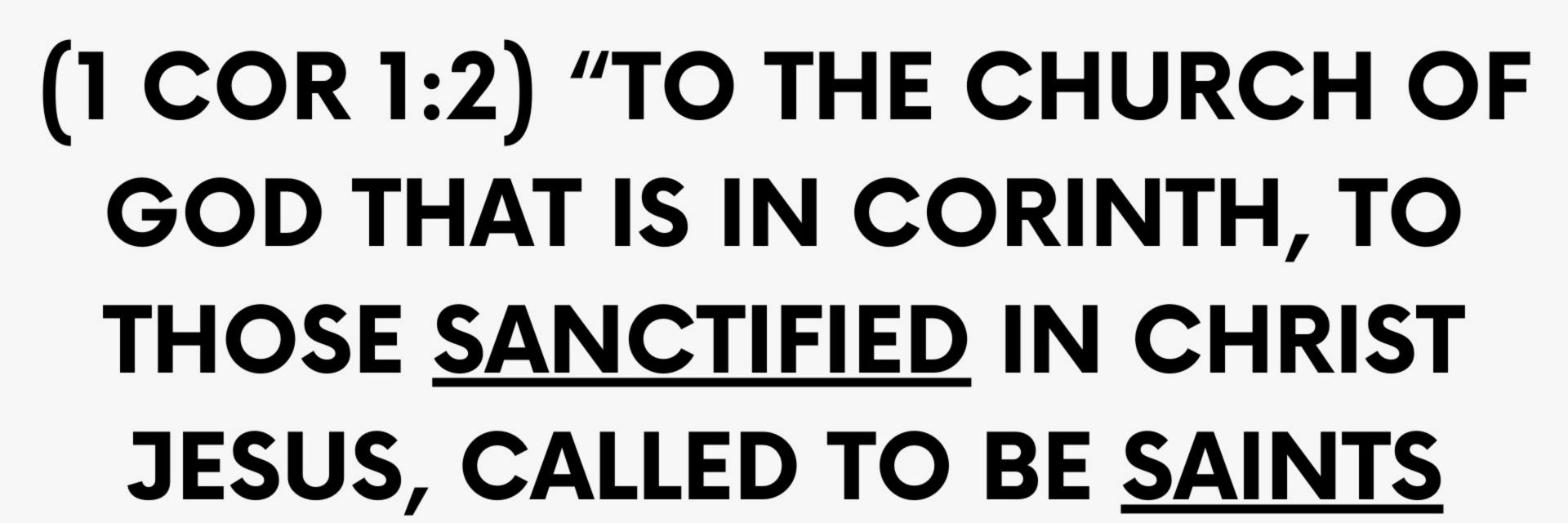
1 CORINTHIANS 1:2

"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:"

PAUL'S TESTIMONY - ACTS 22 TO 'CALL UPON THE NAME' IS TO SUMMARIZE A:

- 1. GENUINELY TRANSFORMATIVE ENCOUNTER WITH THE ACTUAL PERSON OF JESUS
- 2.TOTAL BELIEF IN JESUS' ACTUAL LIFE AFTER DEATH ON THE CROSS
- 3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PAUL'S DEEPLY SINFUL LIFE
- 4. COMPLETE UPHEAVAL OF PAUL'S LIFE AND BELIEFS,
- 5. REPENTANCE AND A COMMITMENT TO RADICAL CHANGE OF BEHAVIOUR
- 6.SUBMISSION TO GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS AND GOD'S CALL ON HIS LIFE
- = "CALL UPON HIS NAME"

- 1. WE HAVE TRANSFORMATIVE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ACTUAL PERSON OF JESUS
- 2. WE MAINTAIN TOTAL BELIEF IN HIS ACTUAL LIFE AFTER DEATH ON THE CROSS (AND ALL THAT IMPLIES FOR US)
- 3. WE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR DEEPLY SINFUL LIFE AND NEED FOR FORGIVENESS
- 4. WE VOLUNTEER FOR THE ONGOING UPHEAVAL OF OUR LIVES AND BELIEFS AS WE ARE LEARNING AND GROWING IN HIM
- 5. WE REPENT AND A COMMIT TO RADICAL CHANGES OF BEHAVIOUR
- 6.WE SUBMIT TO GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS AND GOD'S CALL ON OUR LIFE
 - = THOSE WHO MAKE IT A HABIT TO "CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD"
 - = ARE THE CHURCH



THE ROOT BIBLICAL CONCEPT IN DEFINING 'HOLY' IS TO BE 'SET APART'

THE CHURCH HAS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PURPOSE AND DESIGNATION THAN EVERYTHING ELSE. IT IS NOT THE SAME AS. IT IS NOT COMMON. IT IS THOSE PEOPLE WHO "CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST" WHO ARE "IN CHRIST" WHO HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FOR THE WORK OF GOD.

WE OFTEN THINK OF "HOLINESS" OR "SANCTIFICATION" AS ONLY A MORAL OR ETHICAL QUALITY. BUT TO BE "HOLY" IS FIRST SOMETHING THAT HAS BEEN DONE FOR US AND TO US IN <u>SPITE</u> OF OUR MORAL OR ETHICAL CHARACTERISTICS, BECAUSE OF JESUS.

THE CHURCH ARE THOSE PEOPLE IN CHRIST (THE HOLY ONE) WHO BY HIS SACRIFICE ARE NOW SET APART EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE WORK OF GOD, AND ARE GRANTED THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO'S MISSION IT IS TO <u>SET US APART</u>.

WE ARE NOT OUR OWN ANY LONGER, AND OUR 'ORDINARY' AND 'COMMON' LIVES MUST PROGRESSIVELY GIVE WAY TO THE HOLY LIFE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS INVITING US TO LIVE.