

## 1 Corinthians 1:1-9    Be Sure Of Who You Are    9/1/2024

The church at Corinth was an immature church.

Many people saved, but too many “unsurrendered” to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Mature churches: Ephesians, Thessalonians, Philippians, Romans, Colossians.

Immature churches: Galatians, Hebrews, Crete (Titus), Corinthians.

He tells the immature what great resources they have in Christ, but cannot praise them for growing in FAITH, HOPE, LOVE. To do that one must be **sure of their identity in Christ!**

He tells the Corinthians who they have available to them, and who has called them by His unshakeable grace!

**If you are not sure about your IDENTITY and CALLING in Christ then you are not going anywhere.**

The Corinthians church was in the world, as it should be, but the world was in the church as it ought not be! They were trying to be accepted by the world and be devoted to Christ at the same time. **“ No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Matthew 6:24 A.**

With all the problems worldliness has caused in the church we find Paul does more than put out fires here and there. He lays down deep truths of the Christian life that inspires and clarifies the daily walk that transforms us.

While most of the Corinthians did not come from the rich and famous; that surrounded them (1 COR. 1:26) they were being gas-lit by envy of those around them! ( Like Facebook envy.)

Simply put; they did not know the riches they had in Christ! They could have a fulfillment and joy that the world could only dream of.

**What was Corinth like?** “It was intellectually alert. It was materially prosperous. It was morally corrupt. There was a pronounced tendency for its inhabitants to indulge their desires of whatever sort. In the words of von Dobschutz: ‘The idea of the Corinthian was the reckless development of the individual. The merchant who made his gain by all and every means, the man of pleasure surrendering himself to every lust, the athlete steeled to every bodily exercise and proud in his physical strength, are the true Corinthian types; in a word the man who recognized no superior and no law but his own desires.’ ” Tyndale New Testament Commentaries Leon Morris P. 17

## **TEXT: I Cor. 1:1-9 Intro-**

**He uses the word "JESUS" 8 times in the space of 9 verses! What is he doing? Helping them to remember that Jesus should be their focus in life, their goal to know Him, their joy to serve Him, their only and true identity designed for them before the world existed!**

**You identity in Christ must be deep and clear, unshakeable, constant, and fulfilling!**

**Ex.** Roaring River State Park, Cassville, Missouri. Deep spring. " Drivers have never found the bottom of this spring!" Me and little brother both backed up from the railing. Why did we do that? (They have now found it , currently, to be 472 ft. deep)

**Ex.** "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." I Timothy 1:5

**Ex.** "But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ."

**Clean, clear, deep, powerful, life-changing. This is the life they and we are invited into.**

**Note the terms used throughout this passage,,,,,,,,,**

"Called, sanctified, saints, call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (we are those kind of people), grace, peace, enriched, confirmed, awaiting eagerly, confirm, blameless, fellowship."

**Question:** Why would you comfort a worldly group of Christians about their identity, for this is what Paul does in verse 1-9?

**Answer:** It is the only way to have the power to overcome the influence of a worldly and toxic community like Corinth.

**Final Question:** Who are you?