

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–9, “TO THE CHURCH OF GOD”

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

³Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— ⁶because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Discussion Questions (Choose a manageable number to discuss)

1. What do you think explains the skepticism of this generation regarding the institutional church?
2. What (v. 10) is a primary issue that Paul intends to address in this letter to the believers in Corinth?
3. Instead of tackling this issue from an organizational structure perspective, what perspective does Paul adopt in his opening remarks (vv. 1–2, 9)?
4. What (v. 1) gave Paul a mandate to instruct and correct those who were Christ followers in Corinth?
5. What (v. 2) was the calling of the Corinthian believers?
Who else shares in that calling?
6. Since the primary meaning of the word *holy* is “set apart,” in what ways should called out ones be distinct from their neighbors?
7. Do you think those addressed in this letter saw themselves as “the church of God in Corinth”?
How about us? Do we think of ourselves primarily as individual believers or as corporately called to be “the church of God in Wheaton”?
8. What does it mean to be a people “who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”?
Do you think this is how others would perceive our overall orientation?
9. To what besides sanctification (v. 9) has God called his church?
10. Paul thanks God (vv. 4–7) for specific ways that the Corinthian believers had been “enriched.” What are these?
What quality is conspicuously missing? (See 13:1–3.)
11. Pastor Josh noted that while the Greek word translated *church* referred to an assembly, it is derived from a word meaning “called out.” What are other things that call out for our attention and allegiance?
How is this calling “into fellowship with his Son” different from these competing claims on our lives?