

God our Father: Building a Bride for His Son

1Corinthians 1:1-9

Introduction

1. Paul: Called to salvation by God's will and grace (the free unmerited favour of God)
1Cor.1:1; Acts 26:9-18; 15:11; 18:27)
2. Paul: Called to ministry as an apostle, and equipped for ministry at the point of his salvation, by God's grace (Acts 26:15-18)
3. Paul: Faithful minister by the grace of God (1Cor.1:2; 3:10; 15:10)

1. What is the meaning of the word church, in the NT? (1Cor.1:2)

2. Where is the church/Bride located? (1Cor.1:2)

1. Church: Local congregation (1Cor.1:2; Rom.16:1; Gal.1:2)
2. Church: Referring to all the churches in various geographical areas (Acts 9:31)
3. The church universal (Matt.16:18; 1Cor.10:32; 12:28)

3. The visible church is distinguished from the invisible church (1Cor.1:2)

1. The church visible (1Cor.7:14)

"The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the Gospel...consists of all those throughout the world that **profess the true religion**; and of their **children**."
(The church-Westminster Confession of Faith)

2. The church invisible

"The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ the Head thereof"
(The church-Westminster Confession of Faith)

4. How the church come into being? (1Cor.1:2)

1. The ownership of the true church (1:2)

2. The true church: A body of believers (1Cor.1:2)

1. The church: Corporate not individualistic (1:2)

2. The church: Sanctified (meaning justified in this context) (1:2)

3. The church: Call to be saints (or, sanctified) (1:2)

1. Notice that justification is necessarily linked to sanctification (holiness)

2. The "justified" have the Holy Spirit directing and empowering them toward holiness

3. Holiness is the practical conformity to the revealed will of God in the Bible (Acts 11:26)

4. A universal common confession (1:2)

1. "Together"

2. Universal (1:2)

3. The universal confession (1:2)

1. The nature of the confession (1:2)

1. His name refers to His nature.

2. Jesus is the Christ/Messiah

**3. Note the double reference to "Lord" (1:2)
Sovereign/King**

2. Understanding the nature of confessional unity

This unity is not about our agreeing on every aspect of the faith.

Fundamental issues include:

Secondary issues relate to:

5. The church marked by thankfulness for God's blessings (1Cor.1:4-9)

1. Thanks to God for His grace given in salvation (1:4)

1. The church was brought into existence by God's grace (1:4)

2. The blessings of God's grace are based solely on the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:4)

3. Understanding grace will result in permanent thankfulness (1:4)

2. Thanks to God for the Spirit's work in their lives (1:5-7a)

1. The evidence of the Spirit's working in their lives (1:6)

2. The nature of the gifts (1:5,7)

3. Thanks to God for their eternal security (1:7b-9)

1. The great event (1:7b)

2. Grace to necessarily persevere (1:8a; 2Cor.1:20-22; Eph.1:13-14)

3. Free from accusation (1:8b; Eph.1:4)

4. The guarantee of the Christian's eternal destiny (1:9)

Conclusion