

Who are These People?

1:1

1:2

1:3

1:4

1:5

1:6

1:7

1:8

1:9

What is true of them is true of us

They are a true church of God, 1:2

They assemble together as a group of called out people in God's presence.

It is distinct from any other group that meets in Corinth. There is a place for the Rotary, the Kiwanis, the Boy Scouts and so on...

They are not a man-made group

They are not a building

They met in houses and public facilities, other religious places.

It wasn't until Constantine in 300's that churches had buildings to call their own

They are positionally sanctified in Jesus Christ

(sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy), 1:2

They are not "getting there," they are positionally there.

A person joins the Army. When he takes the oath, signs the papers, even though he is far from being ready to serve, he/she really is in the Army.

They are set apart for God's purposes, not their own (1 Cor 6:19)

They are set apart for a particular lifestyle

They, all together, are saints 1:2c

They are far from personal holiness but ought to be pursuing it.

They are part of the universal body of Christ. 1:2d

“With all...” “Thiers and ours” not exclusive to the Corinthian church only

The city and people of Corinth thought themselves to be superior to communities around them. This attitude was absorbed into the church as well. Most people in the Corinthian church viewed themselves as better than other churches. And of course, many individuals viewed themselves as better than other people in the church.

Corinth is not the only pebble on the beach

They had an over-inflated view of themselves as individuals and an over-inflated view of their church.

We have a lot to attract people

We have a lot of professional people

We are better off financially than others

You can't rest on your laurels

They are under the Lordship of Christ, 1:9

In the Greco-roman world people pledged allegiance to Caesar. Caesar is LORD, citizens were followers.

Christians should honor Caesar, respect him and pay taxes to him (Rom 13:6-8).

Christians should obey him (Rom 13:1-5) unless to do so would be sin

Christians should pray for the welfare of Caesar (1 Tim 2:1-2).

But they would never call him LORD

Jesus is not just savior, he's not just bless-or, he is master, LORD.

Lord means master, superior, one whose authority you are under and implies that we are the servants, inferiors, under authority and under allegiance.

They were saints because of grace, 1:4a

They aren't in the church because of what they did.

Undeserved favor or blessing

They aren't Christians because God couldn't stand to live without them.

After reading this letter, one might wonder what there was to be thankful for.

Saints are saints because someone communicated truths about Christ to them (1:6)

They were enriched with gifts because of grace, 1:5

You are rich if you are in Christ

You have gifts if you are in Christ, 1:7

Some of the people had at least one charismatic gift, "Speech," at the very least, would have included the gift of tongues

Persuasive words, sales pitch, verbal makers and shakers to them, Paul had to redefine several words.

Knowledge likely refers to the gift of understanding spiritual matters—deep insight.

Both of these gifts would cease 13:8

Just because you have gifts doesn't mean you are superior in your character or Christ-likeness

These people, as we will see sometime from now, were using their spiritual gifts in a selfish manner.

Knowledge puffs up 8:1; gifts are useless if there isn't the agape love that God gives and expects, 1 Cor 13:1-4

This church had every gift necessary to function as it ought, 1:7

They focus on another day because of grace, 1:7b

“on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ”

They are preserved until the end because of grace

He will keep you strong...

God... is faithful.

We persevere because we are preserved

So what?