

What Believers Have “In Christ”

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

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BELIEVERS POSSESS A NEW IDENTITY IN UNION WITH CHRIST.

- You are called into fellowship with Jesus Christ.

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:9 (English Standard Version)

But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. 1 Corinthians 6:17 (ESV)

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,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. 1 Corinthians 1:1-2 (ESV)

- You are set apart for God.

Sanctified = “set apart”

Sanctified = the progressive work that God and a believer do together which makes that believer freer and freer from sin and more and more like Christ in his or her actual life

- You are called to be a saint.

Saint = *hagiois* = “holy,” or “holy people”

“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.’” Leviticus 19:2 (New International Version)

BELIEVERS GAIN A NEW EMPOWERMENT IN UNION WITH CHRIST.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — ⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 (ESV)

Definition #1: Grace = *charis* = mercy to the underserving

Definition #2: Grace = *charis* = God's enabling power

Gift = *charismata* = gifts of grace

BELIEVERS POSSESS A SECURE FUTURE IN CHRIST.

I give thanks to my God . . . ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him . . . ⁷so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Corinthians 1:4a, 5a, 7-9 (ESV)

. . . God . . . commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed . . . [Of course, talking about Jesus.] Acts 17:30-31a (NIV)