

1:3-9 – Attributes of their (and our) identity in Christ

- V4 – Grace of God (the father) given through Christ Jesus
- V5-6 – made rich in him in speech and knowledge, not lacking any [spiritual] gifts
- V8 – Christ will sustain them (and us), guiltless in (or until) the day of his return
- V9 – We can have confidence in this because God is faithful.

1:18-31 - Christ the Wisdom and Power of God

- V18 - The “cross” is significant here. Greeks believed that some gods had died and returned, but they relegated this belief to ancient myth. Romans and Jews saw the cross as shameful. Roman society was built around power and wealth. Associating power with a crucified man – the epitome of weakness – made no more sense to ancients than it does to modern people outside of Christ.
- V19 – quoting Isaiah 29:14
- V20 - “Wise Man” – Greeks; “Scholar” = scribe/teacher of the law – The Jewish professional skilled in the law; “Philosopher” = the man disputing every issue to be solved by human reason.
- V21 - Or “through the foolishness of the message preached”. In Greek comedy, the hero pretended to be stupid, but he proved to be wise in the end. In contrast was the fool who claimed to be wise and wanted credit for the wise man’s triumph, but was rebuffed.”
- V23 – “Stumbling block” = scandalous – offense/hindrane. Why? They expected a political deliverer, a king to rule and overthrow the Romans. “Foolishness” = moria (comes from moros – stupid, foolish. Why? Only criminals were crucified – how one who died as a criminal produce and supply any moral philosophical standard to help them? Let alone be a savior of any caliber.
- V24-25 – Romans 1:16-23
- V26 - Roman social class was based on birth (nobility) rather than wealth. The Corinthian Christians derived from the lower ranks of society.
- V29 – “Christ is wisdom of God because through him we have come to know God truly and completely.” Through him alone can we be gifted righteousness, holiness, and redemption. 2 Corinthians 5:21
- V31 - Paul here is quoting from Jeremiah 9:23-24.

1 CORINTHIANS 1 - CHRIST THE WISDOM AND POWER OF GOD

1:1-2 – sanctified saints

- In my opinion, holiness/sanctification is the pervasive theme of Corinthians. Holiness/sanctification serves as the basis for all of Paul’s arguments within the letter. God is holy, and by him you are made holy (sanctified), therefore be holy. Understanding your position as someone who has been sanctified and is a saint is crucial to understanding everything Paul talks about in Corinthians.
 - Those who have been sanctified - ἡγιασμένοις – set apart, consecrated for holiness, made sacred. To be set apart from sin to God. Verb, perfect passive participle. “The perfect tense, indicates a completed past action with continuing results.” Passive indicates that it was a work done to us, not of our own ability. All this indicates “a position of holiness accomplished by God and continuing in force.” 1 Thess 4:3; 7; 5:23-24; Hebrews 10:14.
 - C&MA Manual, Statement on Sanctification, “At conversion the repentant sinner is justified (Romans 5:1), and fully pardoned for his sins (Ephesians 1:7). He is sealed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14), is adopted into God’s family (Ephesians 1:5) and is brought under God’s favor (Romans 5:2). He also is regenerated, born from above, made alive with new spiritual life (1 Peter 1:3, 23). He is made a partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4) and becomes an heir of eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-4).”
 - Saints - agios – sacred; pure; holy ones – adjective. Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:13-19.
- V2 - the phrase church (ekklēsia) of God further solidifies this. “The ancient ekklēsia or assemblies of the secular world, in contrast to the ekklēsia of God, were gatherings of the citizenry in a city-state to discuss and decide on matters of public interest.” Compare this to what Paul is stating – they (and we) are the ekklēsia/assembly that gathers to worship and glorify God.”
- 2 Cor 5:20, “we are ambassadors for Christ”
- On top of this, Paul double downs the reality of their and our sainthood in chapter 6:9-11.