

MESSAGE GUIDE

REBOOT: How God Sees His Kids

1 Corinthians 1:1-3



January 7, 2018

CONNECT

- Think of a person who was encouraging and affirming toward you at a time when you really needed it.

STUDY

For the first message of this series, we began with 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, which serves as Paul's introduction to his letter. As Paul started his letter to the wayward Corinthians, he began with words of affirmation regarding their spiritual position before God. Read through the passage and spend some time thinking about what Paul was seeking to convey to his readers.

- According to verse 1, who is the letter from? What does the beginning of verse 2 tell us about who the recipients are?
- Verse 2 is full of some deep theological truths about those who have a relationship with Jesus. What does Paul say about the Corinthians' spiritual position? What does Paul mean when he describes them as "sanctified"? What does he mean when he writes they are "called to be saints"? Why would these words be encouraging to the readers of the letter?
- As you likely know, throughout the book of 1 Corinthians, the Corinthians were called out by Paul for attitudes and actions that did not align with the faith they claimed. How, then, could Paul speak such affirming words to them, even though they were stumbling to live according to their calling?

- Look at verse 3 and ponder: why is grace so central to Christianity? How does God's grace bring about peace in our relationship with Him?

APPLY

- The Corinthian church was planted by Paul, and was blessed to have visiting teachers Peter and Apollos enhance their learning. Why is it that not long after these three leaders departed, the Corinthian church soon started to go spiritually sideways? Are the reasons they struggled similar to the same struggles we have? Explain your answer.
- How is it that God can see His children in such a secure and positive light (calling us "sanctified" and "saints"), even when we aren't living in accordance with our calling?
- What does the message of verse 2 (that we are sanctified and called to be saints) tell you about the character of God?
- How can it be that God views us as holy, even when we don't ACT holy?
- In the message, this statement was made: *"God's passion is that, by His power, we will day by day close the gap between our position and our practice."* Where in your life can you see room for God to close the gap between your position in Christ and the way you are living?
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