

Excusable Sins!

Introduction: Called To Be Saints



John 8:7

- **But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him *be the first to throw a stone at her.*"**



Introductory Comments

- The motivation for this series comes from that fact that in good Bible teaching churches certain sins have become excusable.
- This probably is true because so many are involved in them and many believers have lost their sensitivity to sin in general. We have lost sight of the need to deal with certain sins in our lives and the church.



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide features a silhouette of a person standing on a dark, rocky outcrop. The person's arms are raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The background behind the silhouette is a vibrant sunset or sunrise, with a gradient from deep orange at the bottom to a lighter, hazy yellow at the top. The rest of the slide is a plain white background.

Corinth

MESSED UP BELIEVERS

Paul calls them “Saints.”

- **2 Corinthians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:



- **1 Corinthians 1:1-2** Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, ² To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their *Lord* and ours:



Popular Meaning of “Saint”

- The Roman Catholic Church declares people to be saints.
- Throughout church history, the apostles had been given the title Saint.
- But when it is, it is most often used to describe a person (usually elderly) of unusually godly character.





**HOW THEN COULD THE
APOSTLE PAUL ADDRESS
THE MESSED-UP BELIEVERS
AT CORINTH AS SAINTS?**

**The answer lies in the
meaning of the word as it
is used in the Bible!**

Bible Meaning of “Saint”

- The New Testament word for saint is *hagios*.
- It refers not to one's character but to a state of being.
- Its literal meaning is "one who is separated unto God."



Sanctified!

- *Sanctified*, a word we usually associate with holy living.
- A saint is simply someone who is sanctified.
- Rewrite Paul's words as "to those separated in Christ Jesus, called to be separated ones."



Separated for what?

- A better question is, *separated for whom*? And the answer is, "for God." **Every true believer has been separated or set apart by God for God.**
- Saint & Sanctified Together:
 - It is someone whom Christ bought with His own blood on the cross and has separated unto Himself to be His own possession.



We Are Saints!

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*



Ezekiel 36:26

- "I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone [a dead, unresponsive heart] from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh [a living, responsive heart]."



- **So although 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Ezekiel 36:26 speak of a decisive change that always occurs in the heart of every new believer, the outworking of that change is not instantaneous and absolute. Instead it is progressive over time and never complete in this life.**



- **Perhaps we might do well to adopt a similar expression for believers: "conduct unbecoming a saint."**



Sinful Saints?

- The Bible has a word for conduct unbecoming a saint. It is sin.
- But we often fail to see it in what I call the "acceptable sins of the saints."

