

“Called Into Fellowship”

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“God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Cor. 1:9)

Read 1 Cor. 1:4-9

Paul’s proclamation of thanksgiving to God for His activity to and through the Corinthians is contagious and electrifying. Where is the idea of deficiency when God acts in behalf of His people? God’s actions toward His people are lavish and excessive. Consider with me Paul’s statements.

- The grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus
- In everywhere you were enriched in Him in all speech and all knowledge
- You are not lacking in any spiritual gift
- He will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ
- God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son

Again, how crass of us as a 21st century fellowship to identify such people as carnal. These people are the objects of God’s deepest longings and heart-felt passion. That alone is enough to stop us where we are and to truly repent of our “puny” thinking as it relates to relational truth. God is not miserly in any of His dealings with His people. God will never give us what we deserve only what His Son has secured. He is always gracious to people who stand as beggars.

Just as verse 2 told us we are, “called to be saints,” so here we are “called into the fellowship of His Son” (v. 9). The calling of God does not make possible something that might or might not come to pass. No, the calling of God brings into existence something that was previously unknown. His calling opens up a revelation that marks the present and secures the future. He called us to be saints, thus we are saints. He called us into fellowship, thus we have fellowship. Once I am a saint, I am always a saint. I cannot as a saint ever become “un-sainted.”

It is equally true concerning the fellowship I now possess because of His work in my behalf. He called me into it and I now possess it. I did nothing to secure it and I can do nothing to sustain it. Once I am in fellowship, I am always in fellowship. I cannot as one in fellowship ever become “un-fellowshipped.”

Neither sainthood nor fellowship is performance based or experience sustained. I might feel and act like one who is not a saint, but my feelings and experiences cannot undo what He has done. It is just as true that I might feel and act like one who is not in fellowship, but my feelings and experiences cannot undo what He has done.

Perhaps our struggle lies in the lavish and excessive nature of God’s actions toward us. I did not deserve it and I cannot maintain it. Before, after, and always, I am a beggar to

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God's gracious dealings to me. We think that somehow we are now to pay Him back, that we are to somehow live up to His expectations. Our daily failures are seen as set backs instead of reminders of our need to live in light of His grace.

Paul's opening comments to the Corinthian Church are staggering. We will get to the problems soon enough. But can we not, in this moment, live in wonder at what God has done? Can we not see ourselves as God sees us? God sees us in His Son. I trust this will be enough for us as well.