

First, Who Are the Saints?

- 1) Colossae == City In Asia Minor Near Laodicea & Ephesus → Modern Day Turkey
 - a) Paul Not Plant == But Churches Planted Carried Message To Surrounding Areas == **This** == Our Job
 - b) Faced W/ False Teaching—False Spirituality == **Responds** W/ Message @ Pre-Eminence Of Christ
- 2) Message == Subversive & Explosive In **Context** of Rom World → Alternate Vision of Everything
 - a) Absolute Vision of Reality & Life == **In Which** Jesus Presented == Divine Lord of **Cosmos**
 - b) **Every** Philosophy—Spirituality—Tradition—Way Of Life == **Judged** By Truth **As It Is In Jesus Xp**
- 3) **(1)** Paul Identifies Self As Author & Apostle == **By Will of God—Not Self-Appointed** & Timothy
- 4) Writing To == “*The Saints in Colossae*” → **Sainthood** Mixed History → Very Patient == He’s A Saint
 - a) **St. Paul—Peter—All Apostles** → **I Like Augustine—Aquinas—Theresa** == **Sainthood** Small—Elite Group
 - b) Group of Super-Christians! → Appears == Bunch of Them In Colossae == **Who Are These People?**
- 5) **Whole NT** Makes **Clear** == Not Writing To Some Elite Sub-Group In Church == But **Whole Church**
- 6) **Every Christian** == **Saint** → When Says == “*To All Saints*” == Same As == “*To All Members of the Church*”
 - a) 1 Cor 1:2—“*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*”
 - b) The Church—The Sanctified—Saints—All Those Who Call On Name of Lord Jesus == All Same People
 - c) Rom. 1:7—“*To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints*” == To Church
 - d) 1 Cor. 14:33—“*For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints*”
 - e) Nicholson—“*This is one of the most frequent designations of Christ’s people. And mark, it is given to every believer in Christ, whether or not pre-eminent for practical holiness.*”
- 7) Every **True Christian** == **Saint** == Important Part of Identity of Every Believer
 - a) **Paul** == No More A Saint Than You → **Mother Theresa** == No More A Saint Than You
- 8) HPC == **Whole Church** == Full of **Genuine—Bonified** Saints of God

Second, What Is A Saint?

- 1) When Paul Calls Christians == Saints == Saying We Are == **A Holy People** == **Noun Form of Holy**
 - a) Holy == **Hagious** (Adj) Holy (1:22) *"to present you holy and blameless"*
 - i) Jesus Did **What** Did == To Make You Holy & Blameless == Now Holy People
 - b) Saints == **Hagios** (Noun) Holy Ones (1:2) == Those Made Holy By Blood of Jesus Christ
 - c) Sanctify == **Hagiazo** (Verb) Make Holy **Holy—Saints—Sanctify** == All One Word Group
- 2) So If Saint == **Holy** Person == **What Does It Mean** For You & I == **To Be Holy?**
- 3) **Define** == Cleansed & Set Apart For **Sacred Use** → Biblically == **Set Apart** For Work & Worship of God
- 4) In OT == Not Just People → But Places & Things **Called** Holy == **Holy Ground—Menorah—Table**
 - a) Root Idea == Not Purity of Character == But **Consecration** == Set Apart For God Himself
 - b) Lohse—"Withdrawn from profane usage and singled out as God's exclusive possession"
 - c) **Separated** To God == For **Exclusive Purpose & Use** == To His Service → His Worship
 - d) Luke 1:74-75—"That we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days." → Becoming His Holy Servants → All Our Days
- 5) Name **Saints** == OT Name For **God's People** → Israel == God's **Holy People** == Now **Church...**
- 6) Sanctifying == **Making** Someone or Something **Holy** == Involved **Cleansing** W/ Sprinkled Blood
 - a) Heb. 9:19-21—"When every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and **all the vessels used in worship.**"
 - b) The Law—People—Temple—All Vessels **Used** In Worship == **All** Cleansed & Sanctified **By Sprinkling**
 - c) 1 Pet. 1:1-2—"elect exiles...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood" = Cleansing Us & Setting Apart
- 7) You Are God's Holy People → Cleansed & Set Apart **By God—For** God & **For** His Worship & Work

Third, How Does One Become a Saint?

- 1) **(2) Saints & Faithful Brothers & Sisters In Christ** → Not 2 Separate Groups == Same People
- 2) Saints == Those Men & Women **Who Are Faithful In Christ** == Full of Faith == In Jesus As Lord & Savior
 - a) Acts 26:18—Jesus Sent Paul—*“To open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me”* → **Faith** In Jesus == **Turning** from Darkness To Light → From Satan
 - b) Receive **Forgiveness of Sins** == Sprinkled & Cleansed → **Given Place Among Sanctified** == Saints
 - c) Have You Ever Done That? → Maybe Grew Up In Church == Assumed It == Not Good Enough
 - d) Have Put Your Faith & Trust In King Jesus?—Turned From Darkness To Light == Bowed Knee
 - e) If You Will == **Free** From Power of Enemy → **Receive Forgiveness of Sins** == **Find Place** Among Saints
- 3) **Only By Faith In Christ Are We Made Holy** → EVERYONE **Who Trusts Their Life To Xp** == Made Holy
 - a) 1 Cor. 1:30-31—*“You are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”*
 - b) No Room For Boasting → Bec/ You Didn’t Earn Anything → Given To Us Thru Faith in Christ
 - c) Jesus Is The Holy One → Has Become For Us Sanctification—Holiness → In Him Becomes Ours
- 4) **Why Common View of Sainthood** == **Become Saints** == **By Being Extra Good** == **Damaging**
 - a) Robs Jesus Of His Glory == His Grace—Power—Gifts == That Makes Saints
 - b) Robs Us Common Folk of Our Identity → Jesus Came To Make Saints Out of Sinners = You & Me
- 5) We Are Saints For One Reason Only == Bec/ We Belong To Christ → *“In Christ”* Thru Faith

Finally, Being What We Are! So What?

- 1) Perhaps No Verse → Declares Our Sainthood → Holiness—Set Apartness **Than**

- a) 1 Pet. 2:9—“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light**
- 2) You Are A **Chosen Race** of Saints Belonging To God == **Sprinkled W/ Blood of Xp**
- a) 1 Cor. 6:19-20—“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”
- b) You Are One of His Holy Ones Now == Your Life **Given Over To God** Who Saves You ==
- c) 2 Cor. 5:15—“might no longer live for themselves but for him” == **All That You Are → All Have**
- d) Jesus Says → Anyone Coming After Me == **Deny Self & Take Up Cross & Follow** == **Consecrated**
- e) **Where In Your Life** → Do Need To Start **Denying Self** == **So Live Holy Life Service & Worship to King**
- 3) Central **Struggle of Life** == **To Be Who We Are** → **Act Like Saints** → **Live Up To Our Calling**
- a) 2 Pet. 3:11-12—“What sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God” → What Sort of People == Lives of Holiness To Match
- b) Col. 3:12—“Put on then, as God's chosen ones, **holy** and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness”
- c) IOW == Be Who You Are!! → Great Struggle == **Given Us An Identity** == **Place Among Sanctified**
- 4) To Declare Praises of Him Who Called Out of Darkness Into Light == Worship & Mission
- a) In All of Creation == Saints Alone == Given Ability—Calling To Sing God's Praises
- b) Saints Alone **Entrusted W/ Treasure of Gospel** == **Saints** == His Witnesses—Ambassadors In World
- c) **Set Apart** == For Exclusive Service To God == Worship—Work—Witness For Christ & Kingdom
- d) Col. 3:17—“Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus”
- 5) Daily Waken Into Rich Understanding **You Are Holy Unto God** → Chosen—Called—Set Apart
- a) Not In Pride → Let Him who Boasts, Boast in the Lord → But In **Humbled Gratitude—Joy—Worship**
- b) Do You Delight To Belong to Him == Delight In Being His Special Possession In All the Earth?