

1 Corinthians 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

Analysis

To them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints (hegiasmenos ἡγιασμένοις ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, kletois hagiois κλητοῖς ἁγίοις)—Despite their carnality and divisions, the Corinthians are positionally sanctified (set apart) by union with Christ. The term hagiois ("saints," holy ones) is not a title for moral heroes but the normal designation for all believers. Paul uses kletos ("called") again: they are saints by divine calling, not by achievement.

With all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord—The church at Corinth is not autonomous but part of the universal body of Christ. This global perspective will inform Paul's rebuke of their parochialism and factionalism. To call upon the name (epikaleo to onoma, ἐπικαλέω τὸ ὄνομα) is cultic language: invoking Christ as Lord is worship reserved for deity, implicitly affirming His divinity.

Historical Context

The Corinthian church was planted around AD 51-52 during Paul's 18-month stay (Acts 18:1-11). The congregation included both Jews and Gentiles, slaves and free, wealthy patrons and the poor—a volatile social mix that contributed to the divisions Paul addresses. The phrase "in every place" reminds them that despite

Corinth's cosmopolitan pride, they are part of a global, Christ-centered movement, not just a local social club.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's use of "sanctified" and "saints" for the flawed Corinthians challenge perfectionism in Christian identity?
2. What does it mean practically to be part of a global church rather than viewing your local congregation as autonomous?
3. How does the practice of "calling upon the name of Jesus Christ" as Lord imply His deity and our total dependence?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ	ἐκκλησίᾳ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	τοῦ	οὔση	ἐν	Κορίνθῳ
which	Unto the church	which	of God	which	is	at	Corinth
G3588	G1577	G3588	G2316	G3588	G5607	G1722	G2882
ἡγιασμένοις		ἐν	Χριστοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	κλητοῖς	ἀγίοις	
to them that are sanctified		at	Christ	Jesus	called	to be saints	
G37		G1722	G5547	G2424	G2822	G40	
σὺν	παντὶ	τοῦ	ἐπικαλουμένοις	τοῦ	ὄνομα	τοῦ	κυρίου
with	all	which	call upon	which	the name	which	Lord
G4862	G3956	G3588	G1941	G3588	G3686	G3588	G2962
ἡμῶν·	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	ἐν	παντὶ	τόπῳ	αὐτῶν	τε καὶ
our	Jesus	Christ	at	all	place	theirs	both and
G2257	G2424	G5547	G1722	G3956	G5117	G846	G5037 G2532
ἡμῶν·							
our							
G2257							

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:7 (Holy): To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (References Jesus): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Acts 26:18 (Holy): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (Holy): For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

Acts 9:14 (Parallel theme): And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

2 Corinthians 4:5 (References Jesus): For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.

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