

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 ἀγίοις)—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 ἐκκλησία τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ οὗση 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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