

1 Corinthians 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Analysis

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (pistos ho theos, πιστὸς ὁ θεός)—Paul grounds assurance in God's character: pistos (πιστός, "faithful, reliable, trustworthy") is the adjective form of pistis (faith). God's faithfulness guarantees our perseverance, answering the implied question: Can we endure to the end? Yes, because God is faithful, not because we are strong.

By whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son (di' hou eklethete eis koinonian, δι' οὗ ἐκλήθητε εἰς κοινωνίαν)—The verb kaleo (καλέω, "to call") appears again in the passive voice: God called them. Koinonia (κοινωνία, "fellowship, partnership, communion") means shared participation, not mere association. Believers are united to Christ and therefore to one another—the theological foundation for Paul's rebuke of factions in verses 10-17. How can those who share union with Christ divide over Paul, Apollos, or Cephas?

Historical Context

Ancient Greco-Roman society was structured by patron-client relationships, voluntary associations, and philosophical schools—all of which fostered loyalty to human leaders. The Corinthians imported this culture into the church, forming competing factions. Paul redirects their loyalty: true fellowship is with Christ, mediated by God's call, not by human charisma or eloquence.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness (not our performance) provide the foundation for assurance of salvation?
2. What does it mean practically to be "called unto the fellowship of His Son"?
3. How should union with Christ reshape our view of church unity and the sinfulness of factions?

Interlinear Text

πιστὸς ὁ θεὸς δι' οὗ ἐκλήθητε εἰς κοινωνίαν τοῦ
is faithful G3588 God by whom ye were called unto the fellowship G3588
G4103 G2316 G1223 G3739 G2564 G1519 G2842

νιοῦ αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν
Son of his Jesus Christ G3588 Lord our G3588
G5207 G846 G2424 G5547 G2962 G2257

Additional Cross-References

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (Faith): But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

Deuteronomy 7:9 (Faith): Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Hebrews 10:23 (Faith): Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

1 Corinthians 10:13 (Faith): There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 John 1:3 (References Jesus): That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 49:7 (Faith): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

Deuteronomy 32:4 (References God): He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Psalms 100:5 (References Lord): For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Romans 8:28 (References God): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Revelation 19:11 (Faith): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.