

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary – The Story of Our Church – 1 Cor 6:9-11

Happy anniversary HBC – we’ve come a long way; who would’ve thought  
As I thought about this Sunday and what marks us as a church, my mind obviously  
raced to lots of things – how fast we’ve grown . . .  
How awesome/humbling it’s been to see God at work  
How much has been accomplished in so short amount of time  
Sacrifices made to make it happen; And on and on  
But I kept coming back to changed lives

We’ve talked about changed lives since we opened our doors, because . . .  
After get in the doors, and get to know people, it’s the most significant thing you see  
You realize very quickly that . . .

#### We’re a bunch of sinners turned saints

That’s how the NT refers to followers of Jesus Christ – as saints  
It doesn’t mean we’re perfect, it just means we’re forgiven and growing  
That’s the story of our church  
A bunch of people that God has changed from the inside out to be more like Christ

That’s essentially what Paul says in 1 Cor 6:9-11  
That we’re a bunch of sinners turned saints – **Forgiven of our sins**  
No longer bound by the guilt of our past  
Redeemed (made new) by the blood of the Lamb

Want you to see it – turn to 1 Cor 6:9-11  
Paul has been addressing their sin and reminding them of the implications, and says . . .  
(Read it; *Revilers* – people who verbally attack others with abusive language)  
The story of *their* church is the story of *ours*  
Every single of one of us, before Christ, was *unrighteous*  
Falling far short of God’s standard of holiness

Some of you were even living in a state of willful, ongoing sin – rebelling against God’s  
design/desires, even though you knew better  
You weren’t even close to inheriting/receiving the gift of eternal life as a part of K of G  
*Such were some of you* (11)  
All unrighteous before Christ, some worse than others, but none worthy of God’s kingdom

*But* (one of the most hope-filled words in all the Bible) *you were washed*  
You were cleansed – forgiven of your sins

We’re a bunch of sinners turned saints – forgiven of our sins and **Set apart for holiness**  
That’s what the word *sanctified* means when he says – *you were sanctified*  
You were devoted to God, for his holy use/purpose

No wonder he’s done such a work in our church – he’s filled it with people devoted to *him*  
People who have set aside their agenda/desires, for his  
People who’ve done away with the world’s way of thinking/living, and adopted his  
People who are serious about godliness

All of which would be for naught if weren’t also *justified* – **Declared righteous by God**

When you turned to God in faith and repentance – when you asked him to forgive your  
sins, trusting that he would save you . . .  
He canceled the debt of your sin and the consequences of hell that came with it . . .  
And replaced it with the righteousness of Christ, and the gift of life in heaven  
That’s what it means to be justified – you’re declared righteous by God

All *in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ* – based on his authority as Lord of all  
And accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit within us (11b)

- That’s the story of our church, and that’s the story of every single person getting  
baptized this morning  
They’re *already* sinners turned saints  
Their baptism doesn’t save them, it simply shows they already are  
It’s an outward symbol/picture of what has already happened in their heart/soul

That’s the example, precedent, and command of Scripture – that baptism follows faith  
That baptism follows repentance  
And it’s the primary means in the Bible to publicly identify with Jesus as your Savior,  
and proclaim him as Lord of your life

- So you’re going to hear about 15 testimonies of changed lives; sinners turned saints  
But before we do, I want to share some of the emails you sent me, of how God has used  
our church to change *your* life this past year

Gotta tell ya – I’m seeing more spiritual growth, more maturity, and more passion in  
our church than I ever have  
And I’m not just talking about the *number* of people who are growing and changing,  
I’m talking about the *depth* of the change as well

All across the board it seems that – hearts are softening, your desire for God is  
increasing, your hunger for his Word is growing, and your passion for souls is greater  
than ever

#### Testimonies – (read excerpts)

That’s the story of our church, over and over again  
And there’s more where that came from  
Pray (John/Garth get in tank with first baptizee)

#### After 2<sup>nd</sup> Wave

What a privilege, but the glory is certainly not to us – stand and sing