

Series: The Bible for Today!

I Am A Saint: (10/30/19)

Text: (1 Cor 1:2)

A Misunderstood Title.

In Catholic Tradition: People of Unusual Achievements

We think of the Exceptionally Godly as Saints.

(1 Cor 1:2) All Christians are Saints

Saint~Morally Pure:

Every Believer is a Saint: (Eph 1:1; Phil 1:1; Col 1:2)

Sainthood is not a spiritual attainment or recognition there of.

It is a State or Status into which God brings every believer.

All Christians are Saints.

God never intended for s Spiritual Hierarchy in the church.

Saint, Sanctify, Sanctification: Same Greek Root word.

Paul writes: *“to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus”*

“Called to be saints”

Saints have been set apart.

We tend to think of Separation as Set apart from WHAT.

We need to think of Separation as Set apart unto GOD.

We are Christ’s Own Possession:

Saints No Longer Own themselves either: (1 Cor 6:19-20)

Christ’s Lordship over us is Christ’s Ownership of us.

Christ’s Ownership should have an effect on us:

(Col 3:23)

To Purify Us (Titus 2:14) *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*

To Prepare Us (Lk 1:17) *And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

For His Pleasure (Eph 1:5) *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

It is a Work of the Holy Spirit:

(2 Thes 2:13-14)

(1 Pet 1:1-2)

We were dead, but He made us alive: (Eph 2:1,4)

We were under the power of Satan but rescued: (Acts 26:18)

We were in the domain of darkness but delivered: (Col 1:13)

Our Minds were blinded by Satan, but opened to the truth:

(2 Cor 4:4-5)

We are Sanctified in Christ Jesus: (1 Cor 1:2)

Why are we here?

What is the purpose of this world?

What is the point of OUR existence? Were we created just to consume resources and amuse ourselves?

This is the point of it ALL!

(Rev 4:11) *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

Man was created for God’s Glory: 1 Cor 10:31

Man was created for the Praise of God: Ps 150:1-6

Man was created to be the recipient of God’s Love: Jn 3:16
God Loved so God Gave

We were not created just to be saved from Hell
We were not created just to receive Heaven
We were not created just to receive love, joy, peace... etc.

God Mainly created us for Himself!

That is why we are to praise Him, Adore Him, Magnify Him, Fellowship with Him, and to be the object of His great Love.

God is Jealous of whatever takes us from Him!

This is the reason of Separation! (2 Cor 6:17) *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

God wants us to separate from everything that would take us away from the purpose of God's creation and redemption of man.

He is Jealous of what takes us from Himself!

Ex 20:5; *34:14*; Deut 4:24; 5:9 Zech 1:14; 8:2
His name is Jealous. He is Jealous of His People!

God made us for Himself and redeemed us for Himself.

He wants us for Himself and desires that we be separate from anything that detracts from His praise, from His Glory and from His fellowship with us.

Illus: GOD DOES NOT LIKE TO SHARE!

Illus: LADIES, DO YOU LIKE TO SHARE?

(2 Cor 6:14-17)

We are commanded to separate from pagans, lost people, and doubters.

He doesn't want us running with people who will steal our spiritual affection from God.

Illus: You don't like the idea of your husband working in close proximity to another women day in and day out.

God is not just being "Picky".

HE WANTS US FOR HIMSELF!

We are all He ever wanted!

He wants to be ALL WE EVER WANT and NEED.

(Num 18:20) *And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.*

(Deut 18:1-2)

The priests the Levites, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and his inheritance. Therefore shall they have no inheritance among their brethren: the LORD is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them.

Illus: When a spouse goes outside the marriage to get their needs met its called adultery.

Illus: Even Internet Relationships that never turn physical are adultery. You are stealing affection, attention, and time from your spouse.

1 Pet 2:5,9 You are your own priest. You have direct access to God Through Christ.

He wants us to Find our All in Him, and He wants to find His all in US!

This is why He gave us the 28 Bible Principles to live by.
This is why you need to form Convictions, and to set Standards for Meeting those Convictions!

**How do I find My all in Him?
How can He find His ALL in ME?**

Living a Separated Life!

Sanctification! (1 Thes 4:3-4) *For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;*

(Num 6:3) *He shall separate himself from wine and strong drink, and shall drink no vinegar of wine, or vinegar of strong drink, neither shall he drink any liquor of grapes, nor eat moist grapes, or dried.*

(Num 6:5) *All the days of the vow of his separation there shall no razor come upon his head: until the days be fulfilled, in the which he separateth himself unto the LORD, he shall be holy, and shall let the locks of the hair of his head grow.*

A Separated life= A Life separated from all that is contrary to God's Will, and Dedicated to God Himself.

A Two-Fold Experience

Negative Aspect of Separation: (Num 6:3) **FROM**

Positive Aspect of Separation: (Num 6:5) **UNTO**

(Num 6:2) *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:*

A Separated Life IS NOT behavior modification to satisfy another Christian.

A Separated Life IS the LORD HIMSELF calling us to separate from all that displeases Him, and to dedicate ourselves completely to Him for HIS service.

(Ps 4:3) *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.*

If you are having a problem with this message tonight, I assure you, the problem is not with ME.

I AM NOT GOD'S DEPUTY.
You Are Not Responsible to Me.

If conviction is present in your heart, it is not from me, but God who is speaking to you.

This Separated Life is a Voluntary Matter

(Num 6:2) *Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When either man or woman shall separate themselves to vow a vow of a Nazarite, to separate themselves unto the LORD:*

There is no suggestion that this is Optional.

God Commands us to live Separated lives UNTO Him, but leaves us to respond to His gracious appeal to obey.

(Rom 12:1-2) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

The Nazarite Vow: Separated From forbidden things.

(Num 6:3-4) Strong Drink

(Num 6:5) Cutting their hair

(Num 6:6-7) Contact with a dead body

(Num 6:7b) Unto the Consecration of his God

As a Christian: We are commanded to be Separated From Forbidden things too.

(2 Cor 6:14-7:1)

(Ezra 6:21) Separated from the Filthiness of the Heathen

(Rom 1:1) We Are Separated unto the Gospel

(Acts 13:2) As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

This Separated Life is NOT ISOLATION

We do not remove ourselves from the world.

Just like the Nazarite Vow could not be hid.

Hair and beard would begin to grow long.

We set forth a testimony to the World.

(Matt 5:16) *Let your light so shine **Before Men**, that they may see your good works & glorify your Father which is in heaven*

This Separated Life is NOT TO A Cause, Denomination, or Creed:

This Separated Life is UNTO God:

(2 Cor 8:5) *And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.*

God wants each of us to “GIFT” ourselves to Him.

He doesn't want your stuff, He WANTS YOU!

He wants us to place ourselves totally at HIS disposal.
(Rom 6:13) *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

This Separated Life is for your Entire Early LIFE:

The Nazarite vow was only for a short period of time.
(Num 6:13) *And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation:*

Our Course is fulfilled when We graduate to Glory.
(2 Tim 4:6-7) *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have FINISHED MY COURSE, I have kept the faith:*

There is no Retirement for the Christian
Our Retirement program is out of this world!

This Separated Life necessarily involves Self Denial

The Nazarite Vow: Denied haircuts & Shaving
Drinking or eating anything grown on the vine.

Even if his closest family member died, he could not touch them to say “Good-Bye”.

These were all symbolic, outward/visible evidences of Self Denial.

The Christian Vow:

(1 Cor 6:12) *All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.*

(1 Cor 9:19-27)

*I Am Made all things to all people
This I do for the Gospel's sake
Temperate in all things
Keep My Body Under*

Gal 5:23 Temperance

2 Pet 1:6 Add to Knowledge Temperance

(1 Cor 3:16-17) *Know ye not that ye are the **TEMPLE OF** God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the **TEMPLE OF** God, him shall God destroy; for the **TEMPLE OF** God is holy, which temple ye are.*

(1 Cor 6:15-20)

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

*19 What? know ye not that your body is the **TEMPLE OF** the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

This Separated Life - is - a Life - of Self Denial

Progressive Sanctification:

Progress of Growth Through Stages:

It is natural of life, whether plant, animal, or Human to grow to a stage of maturity.

1x Sanctification by the Holy Ghost makes us saints.

We contribute nothing to His Work on Us.

In this regard, all believers are equally Sanctified.

Progressive Sanctification Requires our efforts, Empowered by the Holy Spirit and Our Submission to the Holy Spirit.

This type of Sanctification varies from believer to believer.

This type of Sanctification will never be complete until we transition to heaven.

Remember: Def~Saint= One who us “Owned” by Christ, The Implications of living as a Saint is quite radical to what most people are accustomed to thinking about.

Motivation for Living as a Saint:

Love: (Lk 7:47) *“He who is forgiven little, loves little.”*

Redemption/Renewal/Reasonable Service (Rom 12:1)

Who Am I involves Privileges/Responsibilities.
If we would grasp the idea that we are 1 of Christ's Possessions.
We would then see how we fall short in living that reality.
WE would also see how much we have been forgiven.

We would see that we have been forgiven of living largely for ourselves, effectively stealing back our Ownership from Christ.

(2 Chron 7:14)

Humility- lay down our pride

Prayer – Admit our Sin

Seek my face – Supplication

Repentance – Turn from our wicked ways

THEN!

Illus: I am afraid we have gotten too sophisticated for Mourners Bench, Hellfire and Damnation, Altar Calls, revivals, and Get Right with God type of Christianity!

Have we forgotten the real reason God Spares societies?
It is in response to the Sanctification of His people!

(Gen 18: 26-33) God would have spared the city, all was looking for was 10 Righteous people.

It didn't say educated, socially cultured, politically correct, industrious people who are a benefit to society.

HE was looking for the Sanctification of His People!

(Ex 19:10) When they left Egypt to meet with God

(Num 11:18) When they pleaded with God for Flesh to eat.

(Josh 3:5) When Time to cross Jordan & possess Canaan

(Josh 7:13) When they needed to defeat AI

(1 Chron 15:12) When the Ark was returning from Philistia.

(2 Chron 29:5) Israel is apostate, God wants revival, so he raises up King Hezekiah and commands the people to Sanctify themselves.

(2 Chron 7:14) at the dedication of the Temple, God Promised the reclaiming of the nation if His people would Sanctify themselves.

America is Sick with SIN.

We cannot blame Hollywood, Marlboro, Anheuser-Busch, or Playboy.

(1 Pet 4:17-18)

To find our all in Him, and His all in us, it can only come through living a Separated Life.

(Separate from that which steals our affection, attention, and purity from God)

I am a Saint: - I do not belong to my self, but to God.

I have been Purchased By God; Declared Holy by God, & Set apart FOR God.

God is always at work to cause me to grow in spiritual maturity.

A process in which He calls me to cooperate, in every way, out of gratitude for His mercy.