

Who Wants to Be a Saint?

1 Corinthians 6:

1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?

2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church!

5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers?

6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another—and this in front of unbelievers!

7 The very fact that you have lawsuits among you means you have been completely defeated already. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be cheated?

8 Instead, you yourselves cheat and do wrong, and you do this to your brothers.

9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Sexual Immorality

12 "Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything.

13 "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"—but God will destroy them both. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never!

16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

Is Jesus on your mind?
Are we slaves or are we free?
Are we sinners or are we saints?
Are you a deep swimmer or are you shallow bather?
Can you see God in your vicinity?

In looking at 1 Corinthians 6 we will start at the logical place...for me...start at the end...and jump around.

1 Cor 6:20 "you were bought at a price"

Paul in his other writings uses the term slave of Jesus Christ.

Slave – possession of the master

There is a distinction between slave of and servant of God

A servant is free to come and go but a slave is a permanent possession of his master

– The great men of the Bible; Moses, Joshua, David, were all given the title servant of God.

Holy – set apart

As was the Temple..

We don't have a Temple

We use this building

Building...use...wedding feast...workshop?

Tithe is holy...set apart

Different from other things

1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints?

Paul often uses this term about the believers in the early churches

People of God are saints (sanctus) = holy = set apart

Sainthood is a choice...the answer yes to the calling of the Lord asking the simple question:

Will you be mine

As saints we have a special place in the will and purpose of God

-within the will of God

-within the purpose of God

...to show the world the love and grace of God through the new covenant established by Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection

The new contract between God and man changed the way to paradise

The Temple was replaced by the Church (body of believers)
The priesthood was replaced by church leaders
The Rabbi and prophet replaced by the evangelists and teachers
And God and man could speak directly...again
Face to face like in the beginning

Even with a new covenant established by Christ's intercession somehow
The world is full of 'the language of not good enough'...exclusive...
I don't want to offend anyone which means I suspect that I probably will but
Catholic which means 'universal' comes to mean a exclusive sect of Christianity,
Saint comes to mean a canonized devotee usually martyred to whom we can pray
Priest to mean an ordained intermediary standing in the gap between God and man,
Holy is something that you certainly strive for but never truly are,
And Temple the building where sacrifice is celebrated or performed

Not good enough language make's it such that if you start introducing yourself to people
saying: Hi my name is Saint Milton ...I'm a Holy Catholic Saint do you mind if I park
my encyclical here you will soon have an entourage wearing white robes with you in a
blue robe...open down the back..."here now...take your sacred tablets"

But if you confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord," and **believe in your heart** that
God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

And you will be set aside...made Holy
And you will be called among His people of his universal (catholic) church
And you will be counted among His saints

I'm a Holy Catholic Saint...Saint Milton...or San Sanders...and my wife San SuSu
Sanders
Bring on the men in white but please save the candles except for my birthday.
Greet the saint next to you...
Who knew?

1Cor 6:17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.
Jesus is the one remaining priest...the way to the Father...when we unite with Him we
become the priest...but only as far as we lift up Christ

Yep...Father Milton...priest
Greet the priest next to you...

1Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you,
whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

You are set aside...holy...santo...a saint

The essence of being saints is being "in Christ"

Being in Christ is being perpetually aware of the reality and presence of Christ in our lives

To seek and find God's design in the events and people surrounding us

To seek and hopefully find God's will and purpose in our motivations and our actions

For the Christian to be in Christ is like the bird being in the air, fish in the water, a lawyer in a shark tank, a child in her parents arms.

When we are set aside to God's purpose we become strangers in a strange land, citizens of a new country

We pledge our allegiance to a new flag

To feel the door of the world closing and the gates of the kingdom opening up

The letting go

...emotions...frustrations...complications...worry...envy...resentments...things...

The songs we sing here this morning:

"Let every breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You"

"And for all you've done and yet to do, with every breath I'm praising You."

"Every breath that I take, every moment I'm awake, Lord have your way in me."

So when someone does something aggressive, or offensive, or simply thoughtless...

just take a deep breath and remember to whom you belong and wish and pray the same for them.

When someone says exactly the wrong thing to you at the wrong time (especially if it's me) take a deep breath or maybe a couple of deep breathes and remember who breathed life and hope into you and that he bought you for a price...and let your words be His words spoken from His heart

There may be some people that will only ever see Christ through you and your life

What will they see... what will Christ look like as shown by you...will they be drawn or repelled...will the 'priest' have time for them? Will the temple be clean and holy...or repulsive and vulgar.

People need to 'See' Jesus and to know that He is real, He is good, and He is near.

Until they truly see Him you are the 'priest'...the intercessor...

When they see the Love of Christ being lived out in you God plants a seed of faith in them that takes care of the rest.

What if you speak words from God's book of life that God uses to change a persons life has Jesus been lifted up, has God been glorified.

Showing the Love of Christ is loving extravagantly not just barely.

We can only love if we are sensitive in knowing the heart and the mind of those we are to love.

Just as we can only love God if we are spending time getting to know His heart and mind
We can only love the people around us by getting to know their hearts, minds, situation,
struggles, failures...yeah...sometimes the really ugly stuff

A truck...

We have to see beyond their meaning to us and understand their place in God's kingdom
Loving my neighbors...literally begins with knowing our neighbors.

Otherwise we blunder around blindly offending or hurting people, standing in the way of
their needs, their progress and not even knowing it.

Or worse we blunder around blindly offending God and obstructing His will and
kingdom rather than doing His will and advancing His Kingdom...unwittingly falling
into sin

As I worked on this message I received an email containing this quote from a book called
'Finding God in a Tangled World'

- The world is prone to evil, but evil is complex. Real evil is done by those who think it is good.

If we never see beyond our own little spaces our best intentions and movements are
confined to our own little spaces often to the detriment of the spaces adjacent to ours.
When we open ourselves to the people around us we substantially reduce collateral
damage caused by our own act of living

When we spend time in prayer and in God's word we avoid meandering around like
zombies and march like soldiers on a mission

If we walk blindly towards our personal world goals we leave a wake of destruction in
our path and miss some fantastic opportunities to live as God meant us to live.

Sometimes we let fear or apathy or just plain laziness leave us standing in the shallow
end of the pool while people drown around us

We live life weaing water wings rather than angel wings

Another one of my un-favorite sayings:

Love is blind...

Love is everything but blind

Love seeks to know fully so as to love fully people in the full light of their strength
weakness fault inadequacy sin pain joy need...all of it

1Cor13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, (here's what we are looking
at) it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the
truth.(It's not about blindness or denial) 7 It always protects, always trusts, always
hopes, always perseveres.

So are we sinners or are we saints

God's new covenant with us requires action...getting out there..knowing the square next to ours.

Another quote that my friend sent:

- One should travel now and then because home creates habit, and something may seem good which is not so good.

A saint is ready to go quickly when the masters call is heard...to seek...to know...to love

Another quote:

- Paradise is a place where you see that God is good, not that you are evil.

If you see the goodness of God then He has called you a saint

And a final quote:

- Paradise is wherever God is. If you can discern God in your vicinity, you are living in paradise.

Enjoy the gift.