



Part 1: *Saints, Sinners, and Grace*

INTRODUCTION – God’s Most Dangerous Doctrine

Hebrews 8:13

“Obsolete” = *palaioo* = the active form of something growing old and unusable, like worn out clothing (used that way in **Hebrews 1:11 & Luke 12:33**). God made the Old Covenant “outdated” and “unusable” by bringing in the New.

The Gospel is the Good News that God pursues us through Christ to SHOW US his love, SAVE US from sin, SET UP his kingdom, and SHUT DOWN religion.

Luke 6:46

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:19-20, Ezekiel 36:25-28, Joel 2:28-29

DINE IN – Saints and Sinners

Genesis 1:26-28

Some areas of our humanity that sin corrupts...

Creativity	Relationship
Power	Sexuality

Good News / Bad News...

Genesis 4:7; Matthew 19:17; Romans 2:6-7; 5:17

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

All Christ-followers are “**SAINTS**” or “*holy ones*” – people set-apart for a special purpose (e.g., **Romans 1:7; 16:15; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Philippians 1:1; 4:21-22; Colossians 1:2**).

THE FLESH...Galatians 5:17; 1 Peter 2:11; James 1:14

SIN = Any way of being (any thought, action, or attitude) that does not reflect God’s love and likeness; failure to live the way we were made to live.

1 Timothy 1:15

TAKE OUT – I’ll Have That to Go Please

Grace is God’s gift of freedom from sin, not freedom to sin. Grace is God enabling us to live the life humans were originally intended to live. Grace is not a licence to sin, any more than a driver’s licence is a licence to crash. (**Romans 6:18, 20, 22**)

CONCLUSION – Declaration of Identity and Intention

I am a sinner, saved by grace. But I am not only a sinner; I am a saint. I am specially called by God to reflect his image to this world in all that I am and do. Partnering with God to be like Jesus is my goal, my calling, my purpose in life, my reason for being. It is a life of absolute love and joy, and one that I desire above all other lesser ways of living. I understand that anything that works against my reason for being is sin. With God’s help, I choose to reject any lesser way of living.

Q & Eh? Text 647.330.2789 or email ask@themeetinghouse.ca

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

Warming Up...

1. Knowing this series about sin was starting, what were you most and least looking forward to?
2. Overall, do you tend to think of yourself as a good person or a bad person, a saint or a sinner?
3. Why is the doctrine of grace a) dangerous? b) irreligious? c) indispensable?
4. Recall **Genesis 1:26-27**. a) Why would God want to make beings in his image and likeness? b) In what ways is our struggle with sin a twisting of God’s image in us?

Look to the Book...

5. Read **1 Corinthians 1:1-9** in different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) Count how many times Paul uses the name “Jesus” in the first nine verses. In a letter about sin, sex, drunkenness, and an unhealthy obsession with the Holy Spirit’s gifts, why start with so much Jesus talk? Why might getting Jesus central in our thinking be the key to everything else? c) See **verses 2, 4, and 5**. Paul refers to Christians as being “in Christ Jesus” repeatedly in this letter as in his other writings. It refers to complete immersion in Jesus, so that his life, his character, and his righteousness becomes ours. Paul doesn’t *invite* us to get “in Christ” but considers Christians *already* living in that reality. Our challenge is to daily live out what we know to be already true. In what ways are you living like you are “in Christ”? In what ways are you not? d) Notice that even though the Corinthians were immature and wayward in many ways, Paul’s basic disposition toward them was gratitude (**verse 4**). Paul saw them through the eyes of who they were becoming (see **verse 8 and Philippians 1:6**). How could this perspective help you develop an attitude of gratitude with believers you don’t get along with in your life?

So What?...

6. Jerry Bridges writes in his book, *Respectable Sins* – “*The gospel is a vital gift from God not only for our salvation but also to enable us to deal with the ongoing activity of sin in our lives. So we still need the gospel every day.*” Together, review the good news message of Jesus and discuss how this gospel can help us reject the temptation to turn grace into a license to sin.

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Notes are available online at themeetinghouse.ca/teaching