

SERIES: DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE?

PART 3: I AM A SAINT

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:1-2 ESV.

“This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus. I am writing to God’s holy people in Ephesus, who are faithful followers of Christ Jesus. 2 May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.” Ephesians 1:1-2. NLT

What are the characteristics of a saint biblically?

I. A saint will sin

II. A saint is repentant

The difference between conviction and condemnation:

Conviction

- 1. Is from God**
- 2. Leads to life**
- 3. Ends in joy**
- 4. Inspires us to change**
- 5. Leads to new identity in Christ**
- 6. Looks to Jesus**

Condemnation

- 1. Is from satan**
- 2. Leads to despair**
- 3. Ends in spiritual death**
- 4. Makes us feel we can’t change**
- 5. Leads to old identity in sin**
- 6. Looks to self**

III. A saint has God's power

When you're tempted to sin remember you're a saint

Knowing your identity in Christ is key to your victory

In what is called the Disciples' prayer in Matthew 6 vv. 12-13, Jesus says when you pray say, "¹²**And forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. ¹³And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one.**" One of the keys to defeating the temptation to sin is to make sure that we're actively forgiving those who sin against us, and then consistently pray to God to give you the strength to refuse the temptation to sin, and ask God to rescue you from the evil one. 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 is key in accessing God's power as His saint who He has set aside for Himself. "**If you think you are standing strong, be careful not to fall. ¹³The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you're tempted, He will show you a way out so that you can endure.**"

Here are some keys to dealing with temptation and how to tap into God's power that is made available to you as His loved child:

1) Temptations happen to every believer. You are not uniquely evil.

2) Believers through the centuries have successfully resisted sin, and you can too.

3) Any temptation can be resisted because Paul writes God will show you a way of escape. Look for the escape routes. 2 Timothy 2:22 says, “Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.”

IV. A saint is humble

First, a true saint is a person who has put their full trust in the finished work and Person of Jesus Christ. We have been born again because of what Jesus Christ did on the cross. We stand in right relationship with God, because we have been justified by Christ. Justification is the act of God declaring an unrighteous sinner a righteous saint in His sight. This is our position in Christ. As Christians we are new creations in Jesus, but we're not yet perfectly new, but we're on a path to become completely like Jesus when He comes back for us. We continue on this path, becoming more like God, throughout our lives in sanctification. Justification is God's act of forgiving your sins and counting you righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Sanctification is the continual work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer to conform us to the image of Jesus, God's Son. Our sanctification is completed upon death when we experience the consummation of salvation in glorification when we are completely saved from the damage, effect and presence of sin. The term glorification simple means when Jesus comes back we live out our eternity in His presence where sin is no longer a problem. All of this is

accomplished by God's grace and mercy for His glory. But as saints, we can become arrogant and proud (1 Cor 13:4 & 1 Timothy 3:6) concerning the changes we've made and the things we have learned. The Bible says a lot about the sin of pride and the virtue of humility. **"All who fear the Lord will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech."** Proverbs 8:13 **"The Lord detests the proud; they will surely be punished."** Proverbs 16:5 **"Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall."** Proverbs 16:18 **"In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for 'God opposes the proud but favors the humble.'** ⁶**So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time He will lift you up in honor."** 1 Peter 5:5-6

Here are some powerful statements about pride and humility from Mark Driscoll:

**1) Pride is our enemy.
Humility is our ally.**

**2) Pride compares us to other sinners.
Humility compares us to our sinless Savior.**

**3) Pride covets the success of others.
Humility celebrates it.**

**4) Pride is about me.
Humility is about Jesus and other people.**

**5) Pride is about my glory.
Humility is about God's glory.**

**6) Pride causes separation from God.
Humility causes dependence upon God.**

**7) Pride increases all sins.
Humility leads to joy.**

**8) Pride causes me to do things in my own strength.
Humility compels me to do things in God's strength.**

Let's pray.