

Ephesians
Identity - Part 3
Simul Justus et Peccator
08/06/2023

- Simul Justus et Peccator: Both Saint and Sinner at the Same Time
- Saints who sometimes sin
- Saints who a lot of times sin
- Saints who most of the time sin
- Saints

Saint - In its most basic sense, a saint is a “holy one,” someone who is set apart for God's special purposes. As a result, every follower of Jesus Christ is a saint.

Eph. 1:15-23 (ESV) For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

1st) Saint is your biblical **IDENTITY**.

Eph. 1:2 (ESV) To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Romans 8:27 (ESV) And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

2 Cor. 1:1 (ESV) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

- I'm a mess

Characteristics of a Biblical Saint:

A) Feels **YUKKY** over sin.

- Sin is not what you want to do

Romans 7:19 (ESV) For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Romans 7:24 (ESV) Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

- Do you ever feel that way?
- A saint is remorseful over sin
- A saint doesn't want to sin
- Some people have super sensitive consciences and others not so much
- If you are in Christ, you're not just a wicked sinner who's forgiven.
- You're a new creation in Christ with a new identity who is spiritually alive to Jesus.

2 Cor. 5:17 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- Sin may explain some of your activity, but does not define your entire identity in Christ.
- You will sin some of the time, but you are a saint all of the time in Christ.

B) Has **POWER** over sin.

Romans 6:14 (CSB) For sin will not rule over you, because you are not under the law but under grace.

- By the grace of God.
- Who you are determines what you do.
- We start with Jesus.
- He's perfect for those who are imperfect.
- He's faithful for those who are unfaithful.
- He's righteous for those who are unrighteous.
- Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 7:25 (ESV) Thanks be to God, who does this through our Lord Jesus Christ!

2nd) Saints are **UNITED**.

Eph. 1:15 (ESV) For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints,

- What if that person you've been trying to avoid is your best shot at grace today?

Characteristics of United People:

A) Extends Grace to **OTHERS**.

B) Forgives the **INEXCUSABLE** because Jesus has forgiven the inexcusable in us.

- It's a lot easier to write about forgiveness when you're not actually having to forgive someone.
- For the first time in my life, I don't want to forgive someone.
- Look at me with the eyes of forgiveness.
- Mercy. Let me see mercy and understanding.
- I don't even have the energy to try forgiveness.
- All that forgiveness will have to be taken and given as a gift. And that brings me right back around to the gospel.
- Because He did, I can.

3rd Saints are **APPRECIATED**.

Eph. 1:16 (ESV) I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

- Do you ever feel overworked and underappreciated?
- “Contrary to popular belief, Christianity is not about good people getting better. If anything, it is about bad people coping with their failure to be good.”

Characteristics of Appreciated People:

A) Celebrate others **SUCCESS**.

B) Focus on What Jesus has **DONE**.

- I want you to learn more about Jesus, and I'm praying that you would learn more about Jesus.