



# 1 CORINTHIANS

## Called By God

### 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-9

#### INTRODUCTION

The church in Corinth was messy, plagued by cliques, immaturity, sexual immorality, and false teachings. Paul wrote this letter to address these issues as well as to answer some practical questions the church had sent him. Before addressing any of this though, he begins by giving thanks for God's work among them and celebrates his promise to perfect them.

#### MAIN POINT

From beginning to end, God is faithfully committed to the growth and preservation of his church.

#### REFLECT

Given the Corinthian church's problems, does Paul's positive tone in these verses surprise you? What sort of lens does he see them through that allows him to address them this way?

Before Paul ever addresses this church's faults, he sees them as they stand before God – legally righteous because of the work of Jesus on their behalf. When conflicts arise in our church, why is it so important for us to do the same? How are conflicts affected when this truth is ignored?

Paul expresses great optimism about the Corinthians' growth in holiness. His confidence is not rooted in the believers themselves but in God's faithfulness to complete the work he started in them (see Philippians 1:6). Do you share Paul's optimism for your own walk with God? When do you most need to be reminded of his promise to finish what he started? Share your answer with others in your community group.

#### MEMORIZE

1 Corinthians 1:9 – "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ or Lord."