

## We Are Separated

When I was a teenager in Junior High School, I started collecting butterflies. Previously, I would see a butterfly and say, “Oh, there is a butterfly.” After a while of studying butterflies I was aware of the varieties of butterflies. I no longer saw just a butterfly. There were different kinds of butterflies. It was a “Monarch” or a “Pipevine Swallowtail” or a “Red Admiral.” I could see the varieties. I was sensitive to the differences.

So, it is with Greek words in the Bible, especially now with the word for “saint,” “holy” and “sanctification.” The purpose of this lesson is to sensitize you to the concept of saint so you can spot it as you read through the New Testament and know what it means. Connect it to various Biblical concepts.

This particular word indicates the tremendous blessings Christians have that are way above what were available to Old Testament believers.

Listen to the writer of Hebrews. Chapter 11 is sometimes referred to as the “Faith Hall of Fame of the Old Testament.” After listing many Old Testament faith heroes and their many accomplishments based on their faith, the writer says:

**Hebrews 11:39** And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,

**Hebrews 11:40** because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.

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**Something better for us.** This should cause you to stop and reflect. You have more blessings than Old Testament believers. This something better separates us from not just unbelievers but also believers in the Old Testament.

This word means superiority. Listen to Biblehub.com

“Hebrews employs the term to set forth the absolute supremacy of Jesus Christ, His priesthood, His covenant, and the believer’s promised inheritance. The Petrine and Pauline uses turn the spotlight on ethical decisions in light of that supremacy.<sup>1</sup>”

Never before have believers had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.<sup>2</sup>

Never before have believers been given individual spiritual gifts.

Never before did believers have the ability to be filled continuously by the Holy Spirit by faith.

Never before have believers been made a temple for the residence of Jesus Christ.

Consider this: Under the Mosaic Law, there was either a tabernacle (i.e. a tent) or a temple for the dwelling of the Shekinah Glory, i.e. the second person of the Trinity. Within this temple there was a place called the “Holy of Holies” in which resided a presence of God the Son. Now, the Holy Spirit somehow constructs a “Holy of Holies” in each believer for the residence of Jesus Christ. We have a temple. We have fellowship with Jesus Christ, the Shekinah Glory. But the correct function of this fellowship depends upon the filling of the Holy Spirit.

We are aristocracy.

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1 <https://biblehub.com/greek/2909.htm>

2 Paraphrasing R.B. Thieme Jr.

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Paul addresses his readers of his epistles many times as “saints.” Here is a list of some openings of Paul’s epistles. These have “saint” in the address.

**Romans 1:7 to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Called as saints.** “As” is not in the Greek. It was added by the translators. I understand this phrase to be more like “titled” saints. In normal discourse, we say Mr. Sheehan. As believers it would be Saint Sheehan. The problem with this word is that it has a lot of theological baggage. Some denominations consider “saint” to be only those people who have been “canonized” by church officials because of exemplary life style. In reality, saint is applied to all believers in Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:**

**Sanctified in Christ.** Sanctified is a perfect passive participle of the verb. We were made “saints” at the point of salvation as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit resulting in our position in Christ. There are ongoing blessings.

**Saints by calling.** This is the exact same wording as in Romans 1:7. Here the translators put “saints by calling” whereas in Romans they put “called saints.” Again, I see this as a title: titled saints. The translation “called saints” is correct. But it is instructive to understand we carry the title of “saint.”

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**2 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth with all the saints who are throughout Achaia:**

**All the saints.** Again, believers are referred to as “saints.”

**Ephesians 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are at Ephesus and who are faithful in Christ Jesus:**

**Saints.** Believers “in Christ Jesus.” Position in Christ. A saint today is someone who has believed in Jesus and as a result is “in Christ.”

**Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:**

**Saints in Christ.** Once again, Paul associates sainthood with position in Christ.

**Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.**

**Saints and faithful brethren in Christ.** Again sainthood is associated with position in Christ.

Last week information from R. B. Thieme Jr. suggested that “saint” equates to a spiritual aristocracy. He didn’t like the term “set apart” for saint and sanctification. Just because he didn’t like that term as a translation for the Greek word doesn’t mean we can’t explore it.

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Let us travel down the path of saint = set apart. Let us ask the question, “What are saints in the Church Age set apart to?” Even Thieme understood that Christians are “set apart.” The following list is not really in any particular order. There is no claim that this is a complete list. These characteristics overlap. So in some cases, they may be the same characteristic, just from a different perspective. The point is to get you thinking about the magnitude of blessings you have in Christ. Here is what the Bible says about believers. The word saint is not included in most of these verses. The point is that these illustrate key perspectives on being set apart.

1. New Creation separates us from unbelievers and Old Testament believers. We are new.

**2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.**

There are fundamental changes made to the unbeliever when he believes in Jesus Christ. The believer is set apart from the unbeliever due to fundamental changes to his composition. Some of these are captured in the following chart. The Old Man is dead. There is now a New Man.

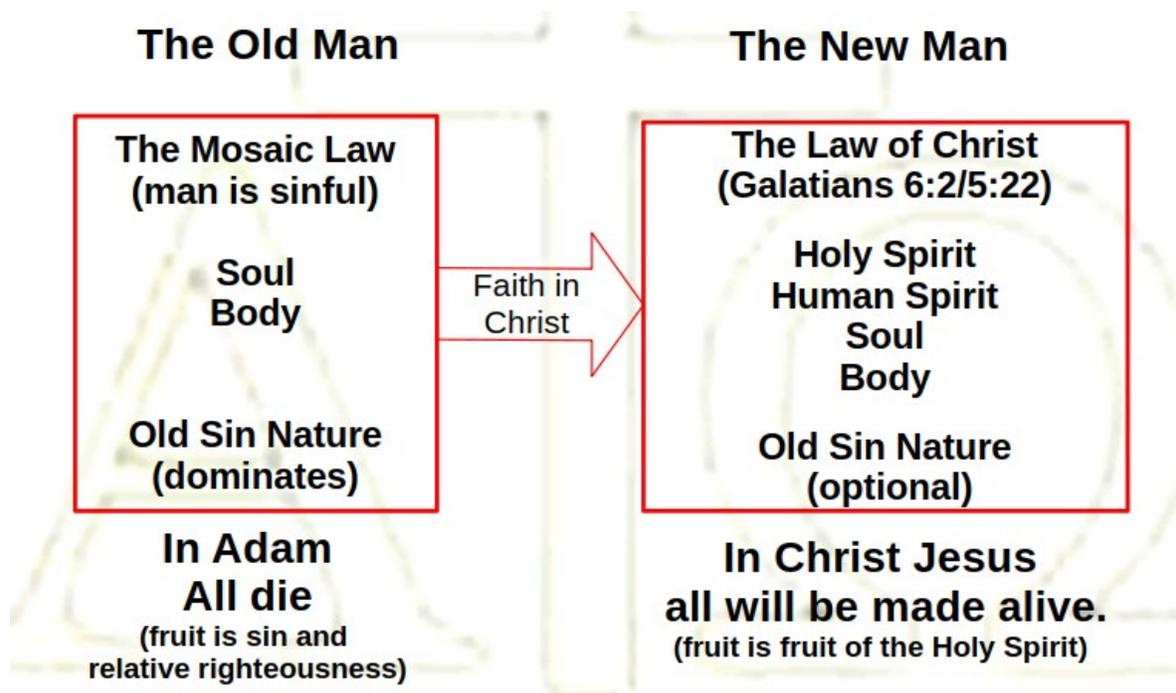
The believer has a human spirit with which to perceive and learn spiritual topics. This sets us apart from unbelievers.

The sin nature which dominates the will of the unbeliever is now not in control unless the believer allows it. The sin nature no longer has a stranglehold on the soul. The alternate choice for the believer is to depend upon the Holy Spirit. This has been covered in lessons from Romans chapters 6-7.

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The indwelling of the Holy Spirit itself sets us apart not just from unbelievers but from Old Testament believers. It is something new. This is superior.

The potential filling of the Holy Spirit itself sets us apart not just from unbelievers but from Old Testament believers. It is something new. This is superior.



There are more than 30 separate blessings received at the point of salvation. These separate us from the fallen world.

### 2. Separated from the Mosaic Law

While Romans chapter 6 emphasized that the sin nature no longer has a stranglehold on the soul, Romans chapter 7 tells us that the Mosaic Law is not the way of salvation nor the Christian life. It is no longer the accepted code of conduct. We now have the Law of Christ.

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**Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted.**

**Galatians 6:2 Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.**

**John 1:17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

The Mosaic Law versus the (Law of) Jesus Christ. Law versus Grace.

**1 Corinthians 9:19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more.**

**1 Corinthians 9:20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;**

**1 Corinthians 9:21 to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law.**

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**Romans 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**

**Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**

**John 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.**

**John 13:35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**

**Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

**Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.**

3. Position in Christ separates us from unbelievers and believer in the Old Testament

**Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?**

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**Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.**

**Newness of life.** It is new. It is separated from our past.

4. Citizenship in heaven separates us from unbelievers.

**Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

**Philippians 3:21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

We still live on the earth and have citizenship in our respective countries. But, from a spiritual perspective we no longer are a member of the kosmos diabolicus. We are citizens in heaven.

5. Future mission separates us from unbelievers and Old Testament believers.

**2 Corinthians 3:4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.**

**2 Corinthians 3:5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God,**

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**2 Corinthians 3:6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.**

**Servants.** This is not the word for slave. It is the Greek word from which we get “deacon.”

Let us take a brief detour on the word translated as “servant.” It is used in a non-theological way as a waiter at a meal. These categories are taken from the Theological Dictionary of the New Testament.<sup>3</sup>

Mary, mother of Jesus gave orders to the “servants” to fill the waterpots with water after which Jesus turned the water into wine.

**John 2:5 His mother \*said to the servants (our word), “Whatever He says to you, do it.”**

It can be a servant of a master.

**John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him**

Both the verb and the noun is used.

Paul says he was made a “minister” of Christ in Colossians 1:23.

**1 Timothy 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the**

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<sup>3</sup> Gerhard Kittel and Geoffrey William Bromiley (1967). Theological dictionary of the New Testament. / 2. Grand Rapids (Mich.): Wm. B. Eerdmans. pp88-89

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**words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.**

6. Be Holy as I am Holy

**1 Peter 1:14 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance,**

**1 Peter 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”**

This command was quoted from the Old Testament. It applies to both Old Testament believers and New Testament believers.

**Leviticus 11:44 For I am the Lord your God. Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am holy. And you shall not make yourselves unclean with any of the swarming things that swarm on the earth.**

All believers have a code of conduct. In the Old Testament, the believers were under the Mosaic Law. For the Church Age, we are under the Law of Christ. And again, Jesus gave us the new commandment to love one another. So perhaps we can call our code of conduct Love.