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CCWW 18 January 2026 8am and 10am

Title: “Called by grace, pointed to Christ”

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 and John 1:29–42

Introduction: Identity Revealed and Hidden

Have you ever watched the Television programme on the BBC called *The Traitors*?

The basic idea is this: a group of people live together. Some are secretly chosen as “traitors”, the rest are called “faithful’s”. The whole game depends on the traitors hiding their identity from the rest of the group.

The traitors lie, manipulate, and quietly remove people from the game, all while smiling politely at breakfast the next morning.

If you *have* watched it, you’ll know it’s full of intrigue, whispering, and dramatic reveals. As each contestant leaves there’s a moment of suspense, a silent drumroll when they reveal their true identity in the game “*I am.....a faithful*”

One of the great questions of the Christian life is this:

Who are we, and what are we here for?

The two passages of scripture read to us help us towards answering these questions:

In **1 Corinthians 1vs 1–9**, Paul reminds believers who we are *in Christ*.

I. We Are Called by God’s Grace (1 Corinthians 1:1–3)

Paul begins his letter with identity. He says;

“Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God...” (v.1)

The Corinthian church was far from perfect. They struggled with division, pride, immorality, and at times confusion. Yet in verse 2 Paul addresses them as:

“Those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints”

This is important. Paul does not say they are saints because they are flawless. He says they are saints because they are called and set apart by God.

Christian identity is not earned, it is given.

Before we talk about what Christians should *do*, Scripture reminds us who Christians *are*. We are people who have been:

- Called by God
- Sanctified in Christ
- Marked by grace and peace

II. We Are Sustained by God's Faithfulness (1 Corinthians 1:4–9)

Paul sees God at work in the congregation. He reminds us

"You have been enriched in every way... so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (vv.5–7)

Even in our weakness, God does not abandon us. And then comes a comforting promise:

"He will also strengthen you to the end... God is faithful" (vv.8–9)

The Christian life does not depend on our ability to hold on to God, but on God's faithfulness to hold on to us. We are called by grace. We are sustained by faithfulness. We are kept for Christ

The same God who calls us is the God who carries us.

III. We Are Pointed to Christ, the Lamb of God (John 1:29–34)

In John's Gospel, John the Baptist sees Jesus and reveals his identity to all:

"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (v.29)

This is the heart of the gospel.

Jesus is the **Lamb**, the fulfilment of sacrifice, the one who removes sin.

Notice John's humility:

"I myself did not know him... but I came baptizing... so that he might be revealed" (v.31)

John understood his role. He was not the centre. He was the signpost.

He points away from self and toward Christ.

IV. We Are Called to Invite Others to Jesus (John 1:35–42)

When John points to Jesus again, two of his disciples follow Him.

Jesus asks a profound question: *“What are you seeking?”* (v.38)

That question still echoes today.

Then Jesus says: *“Come and you will see.”* (v.39)

Christian faith is both an invitation and encounter.

Andrew, after spending time with Jesus, does the most natural thing:

“He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah.’”
(v.41)

Andrew doesn't preach a sermon. He doesn't have all the answers. He simply brings someone to Jesus. That is evangelism.

V. From Called People to Calling People

Here is where the two passages meet. In **1 Corinthians**, we see people called by grace and kept by God. In **John**, we see people who respond by pointing others to Christ.

This year at CCWW we have plenty of opportunities to point the way to Christ, by inviting our friends, family and neighbours to some of our forthcoming events here at the Church. To name just a few in the near future;

- Our service of Christian Unity coming up on 25 January 6.30pm at CCWW for all denominations.
- Our patronal festival brunch on 1st February during which we will have lots of food and fellowship
- Our Lent course on prayer
- Our Quiz night is coming up soon too.

Can you imagine if we all invited one other person to church, we double in size and fill our church for the glory of God. Building Gods Kingdom is all of our responsibility.

Conclusion

The good news today is that God is faithful.
Not that we are perfect, but that Christ is the Lamb of God.
Not that we have all the answers, but that we can say, “Come and see.”

May we live as people who know who we are in Christ
and who joyfully point others to Him.

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Amen.