

6. What is a Christian?

Philippians 1:1-2

1. A Christian has a new name

- "to all the *saints* in Christ Jesus"
- Used approx 50 times for ordinary Christians
- Means 'holy' or 'set apart' 2 aspects:

a) Set apart by God and for God

 $\circ~$ A Christian is someone called and taken hold of by God

b) Declared Holy (not guilty) by God

 \circ $\,$ On the Cross Jesus takes our sin, & gives his righteousness to us

Challenge

• We belong to God – this should be seen in every area of our lives

Comfort

- When we fail, Christ's perfection still covers our failures
- Those God calls to be holy, he enables to grow in holiness

2. A Christian has a new address

- "to all the saints in Christ Jesus"
- a favourite phrase of Paul's 160+ times in New Testament
- Our natural address is "In Adam" when he failed, he failed for us all
- Our new address is "In Christ" when he triumphed, he did it for us
- This provides:
 - Security (1:6) We can't be taken out of Christ
 - Growth (1:9-11) We can grow because of Christ's life in us
 - $\circ\quad$ Strength (4:13) We can cope: we have access to Christ's strength

3. A Christian has a new job

- "to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi"
- "Our citizenship is in Heaven" (3:20) but we live here
- Our new job is to be ambassadors of our new King
- Called to be involved, not hiding away
- Called to represent Jesus wherever he has placed us

4. A Christian has a new family

- "saints ... together with the overseers and deacons"
- 'Saints' always plural we are not on our own
- Philippians is full of being in it together eg 1:5, 7, 27; 4:3, 14
- Philippians is full of family concern eg 1:7-8, 24-26; 2:4, 20, 25; 4:10
- God places his people in the family of the local church, under men gifted to lead spiritually (overseers/elders) and care practically (deacons)
- We need to be praying for such men for here

