



CALLLED  
*Together*  
TO BE

**SET APART**

WHAT DO WE  
NEED TO  
SUCCEED?

8/27/23  
MESSAGE NOTES

What is the secret to the success of the ministry? Paul brought the Gospel to the Jews and Greeks of Corinth, and he was forced to answer this question.

## DO WE NEED A PERFORMANCE?

**“For Jews request a sign...” – 1 Cor. 1:22a**

- The Jews were had a history of God performing mighty miracles to save them. Over time, they demanded that anyone sent from God must be validated by performing miracles. (See John 6:30)
- Today, people get so wrapped up in signs and wonders. Many believe that a church is not filled with the Spirit if there are not “manifestations”.
- Do we go to church for an emotional high? Does the church get too focused on the performance of a service, using whatever tech and props needed to produce the desired effect? This is not a measure of success.

## DO WE NEED PERSUASION?

**“...and Greeks seek after wisdom...” – 1 Cor. 7:22b**

- The Greeks loved anything intellectual stimulating, anything reasonable. However, the message of the Cross is, by definition, unreasonable.
- The Greeks also excelled in the art of rhetoric, using charisma to persuade their audiences, mainly for wealth and prestige.
- Today, there are many gifted speakers who use their oratory skills to tickle the ears of their listeners, often for the sake of amassing wealth and popularity. Persuasion is not what we need.

## WE NEED A PERSON!

**“...but we preach Christ crucified...” – 1 Cor. 1:23**

- The message of the Cross, though offensive and foolish to the world, is the key to a successful ministry, and a successful Christian life.
- The more we focus on, exalt, and submit to the crucified Christ, the more we experience His power in our ministry, and in our individual lives.
- In this way, God receives all the glory and credit for bringing many into the Kingdom because it won't be about our skills or performances.