



Am I a unifier?

Background info

- Colossae is in modern-day Turkey.
- 62ish A.D.
- Reason for Colossians: Abundance of false teachers and saboteurs.
- Paul wrote this letter in prison.
- Paul didn't start the church in Colossae but still deeply cared for it.
- Theme: Jesus at the center. The preeminence of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1-2

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*

Steps to becoming the unifier you were intended to be.

- Every gift and level of status I have is by God's merciful will – Colossians 1:1a *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,*
  - It's okay to use your title when you need to use it, but don't make a practice of leading with your title.
- Every positive relationship I have is by God's merciful will – Colossians 1:1b *and Timothy our brother,*
- Be counted among God's people – Colossians 1:2 *To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*
  - What is a saint?

“It was not used as a distinctive title of the apostles and evangelists and of a “spiritual nobility” till the fourth century. In that sense, it is not a scriptural title.” – Easton’s Bible Dictionary<sup>1</sup>

“Christians in distinction from nonbelievers...in Rom. 1:6–7, the phrases ‘called to belong to Jesus Christ,’ ‘God’s beloved,’ and ‘called to be saints’ are virtually synonymous.” – Harper’s Bible Dictionary<sup>2</sup>

- According to God’s Word, a saint is any and every person [actually] following Jesus Christ.
- With the first-century church being primarily first-generation Christians, how did Paul know who was part of the church rather than just attending?
  - They had to be identified/known as someone who had turned from their sins to follow Jesus Christ.
  - How is this identified? First, believer’s baptism by immersion (the outward act that represents an inward transformation). Second, some indication of willing partnership from those who had become Christians elsewhere.
  - What follows baptism? Partnership and involvement in the local church.
  - At Grace, Starting Point is the place to start: [www.gograce.church/startingpoint](http://www.gograce.church/startingpoint)
- To be a unifier, you must be part of what you’re trying to help unify.
- Join up with what Jesus loves and designed to reach the world: The local church.

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<sup>1</sup> M. G. Easton, *Illustrated Bible Dictionary and Treasury of Biblical History, Biography, Geography, Doctrine, and Literature* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1893), 594.

<sup>2</sup> Paul J. Achtemeier, Harper & Row and Society of Biblical Literature, *Harper’s Bible Dictionary* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), 892.