

I. Introduction

- It is no secret that God has qualified us as his people (**2 Corinthians 3:5** **Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant - not by the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life.**). However, so many people, including Christians, do not understand that we are made qualified through Him. Even though some Christians DO indeed have an understanding of this concept, many still lack to fully grasp this idea which is reflected by their struggle to incorporate it into their personal walk.
- Essentially God has “certified” us so that we are capable, which is why **Matthew 19:26 states with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.** Why are all things possible with God??? Because, He QUALIFIES US!!!— as His people to do such things.

II. Why has God chosen to qualify us?

A) Definition **Qualified:** Officially recognized as being trained/equipped to perform a particular job; certified. Competent or knowledgeable to do something; capable.

- Definition from a theological point of view: Recognition of personal inadequacy. Goes hand-in-hand with recognition of God as the source of all adequacies.
- So, WHY DOES GOD WANT TO QUALIFY US?

B) Because he loves us—He wants us in His family. To be like Him: Alive, full of life and full of love. He wants us to embrace the identity He has set for us as His children.

- Even after realizing that a lot of Christians struggle to grasp this, I realized quickly that the simple answer is something I had seemed to forget. The answer, I believe, is found in a verse we all learned from day one of our faith.
- John 3:16: **For God so LOVED the world** (humanity OR His children), **that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him** (takes advantage of His gift to us, his children) **will have eternal life** (this is the part where we become qualified)
- By receiving this qualification, we begin to step into a new identity. We don't just become certified by God...We get God and become like-him.
- **Note: The idea of God's identity he set for His children individually is a whole topic unto itself, so for our context tonight, take it as a general idea.*
- God opens this opportunity to step into His identity (This identity is a “qualified identity”) He set for us because He loves us.
- God desires intimacy (closeness) with His creation (us). Because of our sin (or unqualified characteristics), we put a blockade between ourselves and God.

This was not God's original intention. We were meant to be clothed in his identity—just like the in Garden, where we simply rest, fully qualified to be in His perfection, and remain close with Him and delighted in all that He provides for us as a father.

- The world we live in is full of sin, which separates us from the Father. The way the world wants us to think is independent of God. God designed us to be completely dependent on Him. The world says otherwise. The world is a performance based and individual (everyone out for themselves) driven place. God wants unity with him...This is part of the identity He called us to.
- Think about this: How often does the world consider us strong for relying on others??? I thought this is how people are labeled weak??? Aren't we considered qualified by our own over-coming strength in our own identity that we find for ourselves??? This is not how God operates. We are ONLY qualified by relying on HIM and stepping into the identity HE called us into.
- Note: The point I am trying to make with this verse is beyond the eternal life (the gift) God has given us referred to in John 3:16. Yes, this is important, but I want to land our mentality exactly where God wants us to be. That is, moving fully into the identity he has individually called us to (deeming us qualified).
- Example Prodigal son: At the end, the father rips away the identity the son made for himself and rebuilt and enabled him to be called his own. The father did this out of love.

C) Because we are needed to execute Kingdom things assigned to us by God.

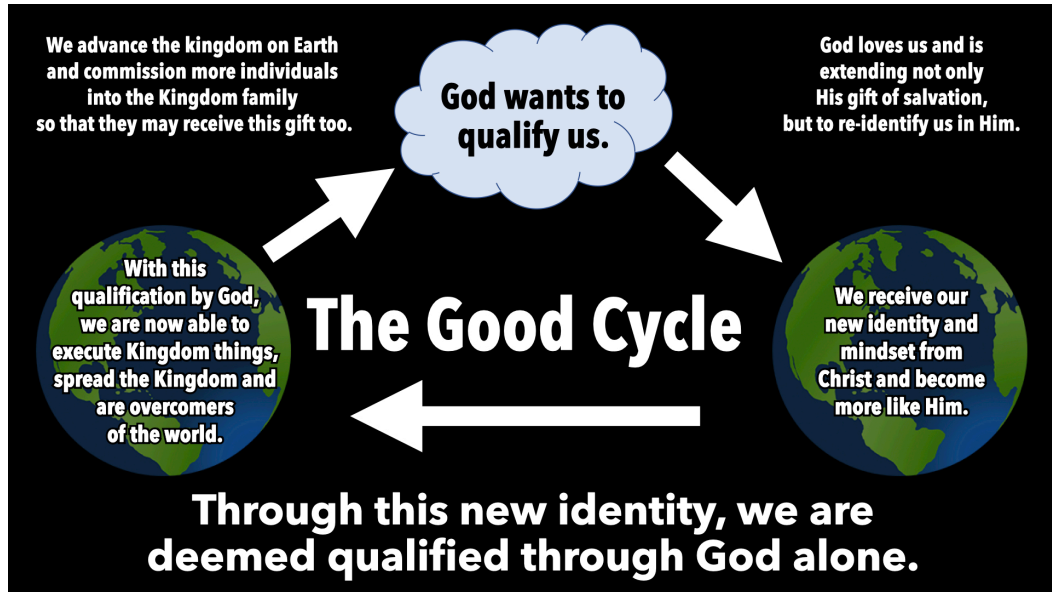
Referring again to "2 Corinthians 2:6—He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not by the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." He wants this for all

- Make no mistake, we are not qualified through God just because he loves us (though this is a major reason). But, we are called to advance the Kingdom as ministers of this new covenant.
- God wants this opportunity we have talked about for ALL of humanity. Not just the ones who have already made the choice to pursue him.
- We know that when Jesus ascended to heaven, he appointed all who follow him to **"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20**
- Part of allowing God to qualify us is also allowing God to train us, equip us, and mold us into qualified servants, so we can spread the Kingdom.
- Think of the children's song 'The Lords Army'. God needs equipped individuals to spread the word. Analogy: Think of it this way so the picture I am trying to paint is clear: We do not send 'Call of Duty' Xbox junkies on SEAL Team Six

missions—That would be a disaster!!!! Why? Because they are unqualified. Potato chips, Xbox skills and Mountain Dew would not get the job done.

- Same principals apply: It is important that we as Christian's step into all God has for us. It is not only important for us individually, but for those around us that need to hear/see God move in their lives.

D. Chart



III. How is this applicable

- We have discussed how we need to step into God and the identity He has for us. This is part of being qualified. So...what does this look like?

A) Trust our father

- Have you ever watched those movies where the kid climbs too high and is scared to get down...Typically this scene is followed by the father saying: "Don't worry, if you jump, I will catch you"? With this, the father is enabling the child to get down successfully. Without the father the kid would not be able to get down in his own strength mentally, or even maybe physically.
- **Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths.**
- If we trust and lean on God, he will set our paths straight OR, in other words, He will qualify and equip us so that we become enabled to do what we need to in order to succeed in life and most importantly His Kingdom. Remember: This is what he WANTS for all of us. We don't have to prove ourselves in anyway. We just need to reach out and grab it with trust.

- If you think about it, this verse also makes our job a lot easier. If we continuously trust Him, He will straighten the path ahead of us, therefore setting us up in a qualified position. We don't have to straighten the path; we just need to walk it.
- B) IE. My own life story of my education career
- C) Biblical application
- As we wrap up, I want to take a moment to observe how Jesus interacted with the "Unqualified". This parable is a good demonstration of what we have talked about, and how Jesus has made us qualified if we simply accept his hand that is always reaching out to us. As I read John 8:2-5, think carefully about each interaction. Use your imagination to set the scene and think about each interaction carefully with intention.

John 8:2-11 (NIV) *"At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."*

IV. Closing