

Who is Genuinely Saved?

The Corinthians were taking their problems they had with one another before unbelievers in court. Paul wanted them to understand who the unrighteous were verses who they are now in Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

PRE INTRODUCTION

- Please take you copy of the Word of God and turn with me to 1 Corinthians chapter 6
- We are looking once again at chapter 6, paying particular attention to verses 9-11

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NASB) 9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor

effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

INTRODUCTION

1. In our last time together, we looked at verses 1-8
2. In these verses we saw another problem in the Corinthian church
3. They were suing one another in court
4. Instead of applying Matthew 18:15-17 to their matters, they were taking them before unbelievers
5. Paul said this was sin because in the process they “wrong and defraud” (v.8)
6. They should have “rather [been] wronged...[or] defrauded” (v.7)
7. So now as he comes to verses 9-11, he elaborates more on the “unrighteous” (vv.1, 9) or “unbelievers” (v.6) and shows them what marks their lives and why they should stop taking their matters before them
8. In verses 9-10 he talks about the “unrighteous” and in verse 11 he talks about their new life in Christ in way of a contrast
9. He begins with the phrase we saw in verse 2, “Or do you not know.”
10. It could be translated “Don’t you know” or “Don’t you understand.”

1

The Unrighteous Will Not Inherit the Kingdom of God (v.9)

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:9 (NASB) Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

THE UNRIGHTEOUS ARE UNBELIEVERS (V.9)

1. They are referred to as unbelievers in v.6
2. “the kingdom of God” is a reference to heaven
3. It is the spiritual sphere of salvation where God rules as king over all who belong to Him by faith. All believers are in that spiritual kingdom, yet are waiting to enter into the full inheritance of it in the age to come. (MacArthur, John, Jr., The MacArthur Study Bible)
4. Paul uses this phrase in Galatians 5:21 when listing the deeds of the flesh
5. He says, “Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB) 19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, 20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, 21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit **the kingdom of God.**”

6. He uses it in Ephesians 5:5 (NASB) For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and God.**”
7. This was a favorite phrase used by Jesus where He would use “the kingdom of God” or “the kingdom of heaven.” Both mean the same.
8. When He began His ministry, Mark said in Mark 1:15 (NASB) quoting Jesus as saying, “The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God** is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

DO NOT BE DECEIVED (V.9)

1. About who is a true Christian and who is not
2. The word “deceived” comes from the Greek word planao where we get our English word planet
3. It means to wander or lead astray
4. Because they were taking matters before unbelievers they were being led astray in thinking they could solve spiritual matter

QUOTE

A most important direction to be given to all. It implies, (1.) That they were in danger of being deceived. (a) Their own hearts might have deceived them. (b) They might be

deceived by their false opinions on these subjects. (c) They might be in danger of being deceived by their leaders, who perhaps held the opinion that some of the persons who practised these things could be saved. (2.) It implies, that there was no necessity of their being deceived. They might know the truth. They might easily understand these matters. It might be plain to them that those who indulged in these things could not be saved. (3.) It implies that it was of high importance that they should not be deceived. For (a) The soul is of infinite value. (b) To lose heaven—to be disappointed in regard to that, will be a tremendous loss. (c) To inherit hell and its woes will be a tremendous curse. O how anxious should all be that they be not deceived, and that while they hope for life they do not sink down to everlasting death!

Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament: I Corinthians. Ed. Robert Frew. London: Blackie & Son, 1884–1885. Print.

Albert Barnes, Notes on the New Testament

2

The People Who Are Unrighteous (vv.9-10)

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB) Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10 nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

"FORNICATORS" (V.9)

1. This is the Greek word pornos.
2. This is where we get our English word pornography
3. it originally meant a male prostitute
4. The Latin word fornicatus, past participle of fornicare meant to have intercourse with prostitutes (Merriam-Webster, Inc. Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary 1996 : n. pag. Print.)
5. By the 14th century it came to mean, "consensual sexual intercourse between two persons not married to each other" (Merriam-Webster)

6. This sin is characteristic of our own western society today
7. It is portrayed and exalted in books, magazines, movies, and television as the norm of human living
8. But fornication in any form is an abomination to God and should be an abomination to His people
9. Those who habitually practice and defend it cannot possibly belong to God, for the heirs of His kingdom do not habitually practice and defend sexual immorality. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)
10. Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 (NASB) For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from **sexual immorality**; 4 that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God.
11. Paul said in Ephesians 5:3 (NASB) But **immorality** or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.
12. In 1 Corinthians 6:18 (NASB) Flee **immorality**. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

"IDOLATERS" (V.9)

1. This is the Greek word eidololatres
2. This is a person who worships a deity in or through material representation.
3. In other words, it refers to those who worship any false gods and false religious systems, not simply to those who bow

down to images. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)

4. William Barclay said, “The greatest building in Corinth was the Temple of Aphrodite, the goddess of love, where idolatry and immorality flourished side by side. (The Letters to the Corinthians)

"ADULTERERS" (V.9)

1. This is the Greek word moichos
2. It refers specifically to married persons who indulge in sexual acts outside the marriage partnership.(MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)
3. Genesis 20:1-3 (NASB) 1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar. 2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister.” So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. 3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, “**Behold, you are a dead man** because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married.”
4. The 7th commandment of the 10 Commandments said, “You shall not commit adultery” (Ex.20:14)
5. In the OT, those committing adultery were put to death – Leviticus 20:10 (NASB) ‘If there is a man who commits adultery with another man’s wife, one who commits adultery with his friend’s wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.’”

"EFFEMINATE" (V.9)

1. This is the Greek word malakos
2. This word occurs in Mat. 11:8, and Luke 7:25, where it is applied to clothing, and translated "soft raiment;" that is, the light, thin garments worn by the rich and great
3. It occurs no where else in the New Testament except here
4. Applied to morals, as it is here, it denotes those who give themselves up to a soft, luxurious, and indolent way of living; who make self-indulgence the grand object of life; who can endure no hardship, and practise no self-denial in the cause of duty and of God. (Barnes, Albert. Notes on the New Testament)
5. It literally means those who are soft and effeminate, those who have lost their manhood and live for the luxuries of recondite pleasures. It describes what we can only call a kind of wallowing in luxury in which a man has lost all resistance to pleasure. (Barclay, William, ed. The Letters to the Corinthians)
6. The word came to refers to self-polluters, who submit to unnatural lusts. (Jamieson, Robert, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown. Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible.)
7. The word was even used in a darker and more horrible sense (Vincent, Marvin Richardson. Word Studies in the New Testament. Vol. 3) as being passive in a same-sex relationship (Arndt, William et al. A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature)

8. It was used of men and boys who are sodomized by other males in such a relationship (Arndt, William)

"HOMOSEXUALS" (V.9)

1. This word (arsenokoites) refers to one who has intercourse with a man as with a woman (Arndt, William)
2. Homosexuality is condemned in both the Old and New Testament
3. Leviticus 18:22 (NASB) You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination.
4. Leviticus 20:13 (NASB) If there is a man who lies with a male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them.
5. Deuteronomy 22:5 (NASB) A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God.
6. Romans 1:26-27 (NASB) For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.
7. So Effeminate and homosexuals both refer to those who exchange and corrupt normal male-female sexual roles and

relations. Transvestism, sex change, homosexuality, and other gender perversions are included. God's unique creation, those created in His own image, were created "male and female" (Gen. 1:27), and the Lord strictly forbids the two roles to be blurred, much less exchanged. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)

8. Homosexuality is condemned throughout Scripture
9. It was so characteristic of Sodom that the term sodomy is a synonym for that sin
10. If you remember in Genesis 19, the Sodomite men were inflamed with perverted sexual desire, and on one occasion they surrounded Lot's house and demanded that the two angels (who had come in the form of men) be sent outside so that they could "have relations with them" (Gen. 19:4–5)
11. God completely destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because "their sin [was] exceedingly grave" (18:20)
12. Since that time sodomy has stood for sexual perversion and the phrase Sodom and Gomorrah has stood for moral corruption
13. For believers the terms also have come to stand for God's hatred and judgment of moral corruption
14. By Paul's day homosexuality had been rampant in Greece and Rome for centuries
15. In his commentary on this passage, William Barclay reports that Socrates was a homosexual and Plato probably was. Plato's Symposium on Love is a treatise glorifying homosexuality. It is likely that fourteen of the first fifteen

Roman emperors were homosexuals. Nero, who reigned close to the time Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, had a boy named Sporis castrated in order for the boy to become the emperor's "wife," in addition to his natural wife. After Nero died, the boy was passed on to one of Nero's successors, Otho, to use in the same way. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)

"THIEVES" (V.10)

1. This is the Greek word kleptes
2. The ancient world was cursed with thieves and robbers
3. Houses were easy to break into
4. The robbers particularly haunted two places—the public baths and the public gymnasia where they stole the clothes of those who were washing or exercising themselves.
5. It was common to kidnap slaves who had special gifts.
(Barclay, William, ed. The Letters to the Corinthians)
6. The eighth commandment of the 10 Commandments says in Exodus 20:15 (NASB) "You shall not steal.
7. Exodus 21:16 (NASB) "He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.

"COVETOUS" (V.10)

1. This is the Greek word pleonektes
2. Both words for thieves and covetous relate to the same basic sin of greed

3. The covetous person desires that which belongs to others; the thief actually takes it
4. Greed is a manifestation of selfishness and, like all selfishness, is never satisfied
5. The greedy demand more and more. In our day it is difficult to find a person, even a Christian, who is satisfied with his income and possessions
6. But greed is not to characterize the heirs of God's kingdom. It has no place in the Christian life (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)

QUOTE

They are covetous, insatiable, in the lust of uncleanness; or greedy of worldly gain, bent upon increasing their substance at any rate, by circumvention, fraud, and deceit; and do not use the things of this life as they should, for their own good, and that of others.

Gill, John. An Exposition of the New Testament. Vol. 2. London: Mathews and Leigh, 1809. Print. The Baptist Commentary Series.

"DRUNKARDS" (V.10)

1. This is the Greek word methusos
2. The word used comes from a word (methos) which signifies uncontrolled drinking
3. Even little children in ancient Greece drank wine; the name for breakfast is akratisma and it consisted of bread dipped in wine.
4. The universality of wine drinking was of course due to the inadequate water-supplies.
5. But normally the Greeks were sober people, for their drink was three parts of wine mixed with two of water.
6. But in luxury-loving Corinth uncontrolled drunkenness abounded. (Barclay, William, ed. The Letters to the Corinthians)
7. Proverbs 20:1 (NASB) Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise.
8. Proverbs 23:20-21 (NASB) Do not be with heavy drinkers of wine, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; 21 for the heavy drinker and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe one with rags.
9. Proverbs 23:29-35 (NASB) 29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? 30 Those who linger long over wine, those who go to taste mixed wine. 31 Do not look on the wine when it is red, when

it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly; 32 At the last it bites like a serpent and stings like a viper. 33 Your eyes will see strange things and your mind will utter perverse things. 34 And you will be like one who lies down in the middle of the sea, or like one who lies down on the top of a mast. 35 “They struck me, but I did not become ill; they beat me, but I did not know it. When shall I awake? I will seek another drink.”

10. Isaiah 5:11 (NASB) Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink,
Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them!
11. Ephesians 5:18 (NASB) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit.

"REVILERS" (V.10)

1. This is the Greek word *loidoros*
2. It refers to an abusive person
3. These are people who try to destroy others with words
(MacArthur)
4. They are slanderers (Louw-Nida)

"SWINDLERS" (V.10)

1. This is the Greek word *arpazo*
2. It refers to thieves who steal indirectly
3. They take unfair advantage of others to promote their own financial gain.

4. Extortioners, embezzlers, confidence men, promoters of defective merchandise and services, false advertisers, and many other types of swindlers are as common to our day as to Paul's. (MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians)
5. Ephesians 4:28 (NASB) He who steals must **steal** no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

3

The New Life of the Corinthians (v.11)

BIBLE VERSE

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NASB) Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

"SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU" (V.11)

1. "Were" (eimi) [imperfect, active, indicative]
2. The imperfect is describing past action
3. This list describes some not all of the Corinthians or it means some were this, some were that as one commentator puts it
4. The point is this is what they used to be but are no longer this now
5. Paul refers to their past in 1 Corinthians 12:2 (NASB) You know that **when you were pagans**, you were led astray to

the mute idols, however you were led.

6. Paul always contrasts the past with the present when describing conversion
7. Ephesians 2:1-3 (NASB) 1 And you **were** dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you **formerly** walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all **formerly** lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).
8. Ephesians 5:8 (NASB) for you **were** formerly darkness, **but now** you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.
9. Titus 3:3-7 (NASB) 3 For we also once **were** foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another. 4 **But** when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

QUOTE

Though not all Christians have been guilty of all those particular sins, every Christian is equally an ex-sinner, since Christ came to save sinners (cf. Matt. 9:13; Rom. 5:20). Some who used to have those patterns of sinful life were falling into those old sins again, and needed reminding that if they went all the way back to live as they used to, they were not going to inherit eternal salvation, because it would indicate that they never were saved (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17).

MacArthur, John, Jr., ed. *The MacArthur Study Bible*. electronic ed. Nashville, TN: Word Pub., 1997. Print.

John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible*

QUOTE

Paul uses but (alla, the strongest Greek adversative particle) three times to indicate the contrast of the Christian life with the worldly life he has just been describing. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified. It made no difference what they were before they were saved. God can save a sinner from any sin and all sin. But it makes a great deal of difference what a believer is like after salvation. He is to live a life that corresponds to his cleansing, his sanctification, and his justification. His Christian life is to be pure, holy, and righteous. The new life produces and requires a new kind of living.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1 Corinthians.
Chicago: Moody Press, 1984. Print.
MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

THEY WERE WASHED

1. Washed speaks of new life, of regeneration
2. Jesus “saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the **washing of regeneration** and renewing by the Holy Spirit” (Titus 3:5)
3. Regeneration is God’s work of re-creation
4. “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17)
5. “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus” (Eph. 2:10)
6. When a person is washed by Christ he is born again
7. John 3:3-8 (NASB) Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus *said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” 5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where

it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

THEY WERE SANCTIFIED

1. Sanctified speaks of new behavior
2. To be sanctified is to be made holy inwardly and to be able, in the Spirit’s power, to live a righteous life outwardly
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NASB) For this is the will of God, your **sanctification**...
4. Hebrews 12:14 (NASB) Pursue peace with all men, and the **sanctification** without which no one will see the Lord
5. Before a person is saved he has no holy nature and no capacity for holy living. But in Christ we are given a new nature and can live out the new kind of life
6. Sin’s total domination is broken and is replaced by a life of holiness
7. By their fleshly sinfulness the Corinthians were interrupting that divine work

THEY WERE JUSTIFIED

1. Justified speaks of new standing before God
2. In Christ we are clothed in His righteousness and God now sees in us His Son’s righteousness instead of our sin. Christ’s righteousness is credited to our account (Rom. 4:22–25)
3. We are declared and made in the new nature righteous, holy, innocent, and guiltless because God is “the justifier of the one

who has faith in Jesus” (Rom. 3:26)

4

Conclusion

CONSIDER THIS...

1. When you have disputes take them to the church not to unbelievers
2. They are lost and so were you
3. But now you have been changed---totally transformed
4. Your life is no longer characterized by sin but righteousness
5. Stop drifting back
6. If you continue it indicates your lost, still in your sins
7. As believers we have been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God
8. Let's live that new life
9. If any of the sins mentioned in verses 9-10, it indicates that you never have been saved no matter what you profess and you need to repent right now and turn your Jesus for forgiveness of sin.
10. I pray you will repent as we pray.
11. Let's pray.