

## The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

### Do Not Be Deceived

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

1. **An Important Question** (v.9)

It is critical that the Christian continually remember that the kingdom of God will be inhabited by the righteous, and not the unrighteous (cf. Matt 5:20). This righteousness is received through faith in Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:21; cf. John 3:36; Rom. 3:26; 5:12-21).

2. **An Important Command** (v.9)

God has given us His Word that we might know about Him, that we might learn from what God has done in the past (cf. Rom. 15:4), and He has repeatedly warned us to not be deceived (1 Cor. 15:33; Gal. 6:7; James 1:16; 1 John 3:7). Christians are to be stable amidst the storm of the world's hostile (cf. Eph 4:14).

3. **An Important List** (vs.9-10)

A. Fornicators (πόρνος)

Along with its related terms (porne, πόρνη; porneia, πορνεία), this is a word which refers to sexual immorality in a general way (cf. 1 Cor. 5:9). It often is used for harlotry or some form of pay-for-sex transaction (1 Chron. 5:25; Hos 1:2) or even sexual activity that is motivated or justified by false religion (cf. Deut. 23:17). Whatever the manifestation, fornication originates in the heart of man and is not to be blamed on circumstances (cf. Matt 15:19). It is of such a nature that it is not even to be named among the brethren (Eph. 5:3), though it has always been present inside of local churches (cf. Rev. 2:21). God's command and God's will for every Christian is to abstain from this form of evil (1 Thess. 4:3).

B. Idolaters (εἰδωλόλατρης)

Idolatry is described as adultery or harlotry (cf. Jer. 3:7-10). The idolater is a person who worships and serves someone or something that is not God, and God will not be merciful to idolaters (cf. Rev. 21:8). It is easy to think of idolatry merely as a crass form of object veneration that is on display in the religion of Hinduism, but idolatry is not limited to that expression. Fundamentally, anything that is served or valued above or in the place of God Himself, qualifies for idolatry.

C. Adulterers (μοιχός)

This is a specific form of sexual immorality where a husband or wife has sexual intercourse with someone who is not his or her marriage partner. Adultery,

like all immorality, begins first in the heart of the person (Mark 7:21) and is not merely the result of coincidence or circumstance. God has commanded us to highly esteem marriage and to keep it undefiled (Heb. 13:4).

D. Effeminate (μαλακός)

This is a word which means soft (as in soft clothing, cf. Luke 7:25). The best way to understand Paul's use is that he is referring to the passive partner (i.e. penetrated person) in male homosexual activity. This practice between two men it also is an example of a violation of gender distinctions (cf. Deut. 22:5).

E. Homosexuals (ἁρσενοκοίτης)

Paul likely coined this word himself. It is the combination of two words, aresons (ἄρσενος) and koiten (κοίτην), used in the Septuagint. It refers to a male bed partner, and the dominant (i.e. penetrator) of the two men.

Lev. 18:22 (LXX)

καὶ μετὰ ἄρσενος οὐ κοιμηθήσῃ κοίτην γυναικός· βδέλυγμα γάρ ἐστίν.

Lev. 18:22 (NASB)

You shall not lie with a **male** as one **lies with** a female; it is an abomination.

F. Thieves (κλέπτης)

A thief is someone who enters a place where they are unwanted and uninvited to take what he or she wants while the owner is unaware. A Christian is not to be under punishment as a thief (1 Pet. 4:15).

G. Covetous (πλεονέκτης)

This is a person who desires what they do not have and more than what is his or her due. This is a greedy person. It can also refer to someone who defrauds others for personal gain, and is directly related to idolatry (cf. Eph 5:5).

H. Drunkards (μέθυσος)

This is a person who shows himself to be addicted to wine or to other vices. It is descriptive of those who have once professed faith, but fall away and prove to never have had saving faith (cf. Luke 21:34). It is often associated with other forms of immorality and sin (cf. Rom. 13:13).

I. Revilers (λοιδορός)

This is a person who is abusive in speech, insulting. This is contrary to the example and teaching Christ (cf. 1 Pet. 2:23; 3:9).

J. Swindlers (ἄρπαξ)

This is a person who preys on individuals for gain (cf. Matt 12:29; John 10:12).