

## The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

### Such Were Some of You

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1. **A Warning** (vs.9-10)

“the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”

The world is full of many messages concerning God’s love for men and His acceptance of men. Almost all of these messages, including many that are called “Christian”, are lies and will result in the damnation of those who follow them (Matt. 7:22-23; John 10:1, 7-10; cf. Deut. 13:1-4). Anyone whose pattern of life mirrors the sins of the world (cf. Gal. 5:19-21) or who gives encouraging approval to these activities (cf. Rom. 1:31) are in peril of condemnation.

2. **A Transformation** (v.11)

“such were some of you”

The manifest difference between the righteous and the unrighteous is as clear as the difference between midnight and noon (1 Thess. 5:4-6; 1 John 2:9), between dead and living (Eph 2:1-2), and between enemies and friends (Rom. 8:6-8; Col. 1:21). Conversion is so radical that it changes idolaters into followers (1 Thess. 1:9-10), the deranged into disciples (Luke 8:38-39), the greedy into givers (Luke 19:8-10), and killers into martyrs (Acts 9:13-14; Gal. 1:23).

3. **A Renewal** (v.11)

“you were washed”

Jesus indicated that a new birth was necessary for anyone to inherit the kingdom of God (John 3:3), and this spiritual birth is God’s work (John 1:12-13; 3:4-8; Titus 3:5-6). This new birth is symbolized in water baptism which ought to be a natural first act of obedience for the new believer (Acts 22:16; cf. Acts 8:36; 16:30-33). In the new birth God has forever revoked sin’s ownership of the believer (Rom. 6:5-7).

4. **A Dedication** (v.11)

“you were sanctified”

The ongoing progressive conformity to God and into the image of Christ subsequent to being born again is called sanctification (Rom. 6:19, 22; 1 Thess. 4:3-4). Sanctification can also be used to refer to God’s setting apart of someone (or something) as holy, dedicated to Himself (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Everyone who has been born again will continue to increase in their obedience to God’s commands in good works (progressive sanctification; John 15:2-3; Rom. 12:1-2; Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor 7:1) because God has made them saints and set them apart unto Himself (positional sanctification; 1 Cor. 1:2; Heb. 10:10).

5. **A Verdict** (v.11)

“you were justified”

The requirement for entering into the kingdom of God is perfect righteousness (Matt. 5:20; cf. Gal. 3:10; James. 2:10). This is not a result of works, but on the basis of God’s grace alone (Rom. 3:24; Titus 3:7). Justification is where God declares a sinner righteous by pardoning sins and imputing the righteousness of Christ. A sinner receives justification only by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (Rom. 3:24-26; 5:1; Gal. 3:6-9; cf. 2 Cor. 5:21).