

Message #22

I Corinthians 6:9-11

The Corinthian church was a church with MAJOR problems. Some of the Corinthians had become isolated separatists (5:9-10), who did not associate with lost people in this world. Some of the Corinthians were judicial legalists, who would take another brother to court (6:1) and still others were licentious libertines who would involve themselves in heathen-type sins (6:18).

Two of the causes of the Corinthian carnality were: 1) The Corinthians had forgotten what they once were—they had previously been some of the most wild sinners on planet earth; 2) The Corinthians had forgotten what they should become—a reflection of godly purity.

A GODLY LIFE THAT PURSUES PURITY THAT ASSOCIATES WITH SINNERS AND THAT PROPERLY ASSOCIATES WITH ANOTHER BROTHER, IS PRODUCED BY REMEMBERING WHAT WE OURSELVES ONCE WERE AND BY REMEMBERING WHAT, BY GOD’S GRACE, WE PRESENTLY ARE.

Every once in a while it is good to reflect upon what we once were. It is good to remember the emptiness and void that existed when we were steeped in sin.

REMINDER #1 – What every believer ought to know. **6:9a**

Every believer ought to realize that those who are unrighteous, that is those without Christ, will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The word “unrighteous” is a legal term. It refers to one who is legally unrighteous, according to the standards of God. The concept of “inheriting” something is the concept of gaining something by legal right because of who you are.

Keep in mind that since it is God’s Kingdom, He is the one who legally determines who is unrighteous and who isn’t. It is important to see that there is ONLY ONE way to become a person who is righteous in God’s sight. There is ONLY ONE way in which God will see a person as righteous enough to inherit His Kingdom. That way is by believing on Jesus Christ.

John wrote: “But as many as received Him, to them He (God) gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name” (John 1:12).

Luke wrote: “Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him (Christ) forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses” (Acts 13:38-39).

Paul wrote: “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe...” (Rom. 3:21).

Reason #1 - The elevation reason.

The Corinthians more highly esteemed those who were lost than they did those who were saved.

Reason #2 - The evangelistic reason.

Obviously the Corinthians forgot that these people were heading toward hell and that it was their responsibility to reach them for Jesus Christ.

REMINDER #2 – How every believer should not be deceived. **6:9b-10**

That word “deceive” is one that means to be led astray or to wander away. It seems to me that Paul was writing these verses to accomplish four objectives: 1) To establish clearly that many will not go to heaven; 2) To identify clearly some who will not go to heaven; 3) To challenge each person to examine whether or not he or she will go to heaven; 4) To challenge the believer to NOT live like one who is not going to heaven. It needs to be clearly pointed out that this is a list of sins which will send a person to hell, not a list of sicknesses or diseases that should just put one in a hospital.

Four of the ten types of sins clearly have to do with sexual immorality, which proves that sexual immorality is a major sin that has always been in the world and even in the church. Sexual immorality is a major reason people will go to hell.

Sin #1 - Fornicators will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:9b**

A fornicator is one who is not married who is involved in sexual activity.

Sin #2 - Idolaters will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:9c**

An idolater is one who devotes himself or herself to something other than God.

Sin #3 - Adulterers will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:9d**

An adulterer is one who is married and is involved in sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship. Because of the words of our Lord, we know that adultery can be committed physically and mentally (Matt. 5:28).

Sin #4 - Effeminates will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:9e**

An effeminate person is a homosexual who takes on the feminine role in the relationship.

Sin #5 - Homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:9f**

A homosexual is one who takes on the masculine role in a homosexual relationship.

What we need to know is that homosexuality is not a genetic problem and it is not a sickness; it is a sin that will send one to hell.

Sin #6 - Thieves will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:10a**

A thief is one who steals things.

Sin #7 - Coveters will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:10b**

One who is covetous is one who is never content with what he has and always wants more and will do whatever it takes to get more.

Sin #8 - Drunkards will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:10c**

A drunkard is one who becomes intoxicated; one who gets drunk.

Sin #9 - Revilers will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:10d**

A reviler is one who continually, verbally abuses other people. There is no doubt that James saw the seriousness of the tongue for he said it was something that could be closely connected to hell (James 3:6).

Sin #10 - Swindlers will not inherit the Kingdom of God. **6:10e**

A swindler is one who cheats others out of money.

God is the One who says those who commit these sins **SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD**. In fact, that point is repeated twice in these two verses.

(Reality #1) - You ARE NOT saved and need to be saved.

(Reality #2) - You ARE saved and need to repent.

Don't be deceived into thinking that anyone who continually commits these sins is right with God, because he is not!

REMINDER #3 – What believers should remember. **6:11**

Make no mistake about it, “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23).

Reason #1 - Such a memory combats Phariseeism.

Reason #2 - Such a memory combats licentiousness.

Reason #3 - Such a memory promotes grace.

We know that where sin abounds, grace abounds more (Rom. 5:20).

REMINDER #4 – What believers presently are now. 6:11b

1) Believers have been washed. **6:11b**

The word wash is one that means to wash off and wash away.

2) Believers have been sanctified. **6:11c**

In the sight of God, we have been totally set apart unto God as His holy people forever.

3) Believers have been justified. **6:11d**

Believers have been judicially declared righteous from all their sin.

No matter what your sin or background, your failure or transgression, you can be set free and cleansed by the blood of the Lamb. Believe on Him and you will be saved.