

## Hope for Sinners 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

### INTRODUCTION

For this morning, we turn our attention to **1 Cor 6:9-11**. The most important part of this text is the first phrase of **verse 11**: ***“And such were some of you.”*** Here's my main point for today: ***God's saving grace does not mean that God benignly accepts humans in all their fallenness, forgives them, and then leaves them in that fallenness; He's in the business not of whitewashing sins but of transforming sinners.***

**Christianity is supremely about life change... transformation.** Everything we say and everything we believe is built upon one fundamental and revolutionary premise: ***You don't have to stay the way you are.*** Your life can be radically changed by God. **True & lasting change (transformation) is a miracle that happens when the person & power of God intersects with human personality.** Once God enters the picture, your life will never be the same again. Until then, you may be religious, and you may be a very good person and you may obey all the rules of the church, but you have not been transformed.

**Transformation through the power of the gospel is the certainty that what you were does not determine what you are, and what you are does not determine what you will be. You can be changed, you can be different, your life can move in an entirely new direction.** If you take that truth away from Christianity, it ceases to be a supernatural religion. If the possibility of real change is gone, then we have nothing to offer but a set of rules. Can the leopard change his spots? In himself and by himself, the leopard can never change his spots, but with God all things are possible. **This is the practical heart of our Christian faith.**

***Salvation is the miracle whereby God changes the tenses of your life:*** this is what you **were** to this is what you **are**. When God invades your life, you will experience a total makeover.

**Don't miss the argument that Paul presents to the followers of Jesus at Corinth.** The church was behaving in such a way that muddied their identity as a faith community - ***chapters 1-3 (divisions in the church), chapter 5 (sexual immorality in the church), chapter 6 (lawsuits amongst believers)***. Christian identity is at stake when the behavior of Christians reflect the prince of this world more than the God of the Kingdom. Throughout this letter, Paul reminds believers that when those who claim to be part of the Christ community live like those who will not inherit the kingdom of God, the church must be willing to protect its testimony as a Christ-empowered community; a community transformed by Christ.

This is the question we must face: **How can that sort of transformation take place today? Paul offers three answers:**

I. God \_\_\_\_\_ sin: \_\_\_\_\_ it! (6:9-10)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. The \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note four things about this list:**

1. These sins were \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient Corinth.

2. These sins are \_\_\_\_\_ today.

3. These sins are mostly \_\_\_\_\_ sins.

4. These are sins of \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

**II. Only God can \_\_\_\_\_ you: \_\_\_\_\_ it! (6:11a)**

**In some ways this is harder than the first step.** As difficult as it is to accept that you are a sinner deserving of judgment, it's much harder (for many people) to truly believe in God's power to change them. That's why the first phrase of **verse 11** is so crucial. Paul reminds the Corinthians that God had radically changed their tenses:

- Once some of them were drunkards ... but not anymore.
- Once some of them were adulterers ... but not anymore.
- Once some of them were abusers ... but not anymore.
- Once some of them were swindlers ... but not anymore.
- Once some of them were homosexuals ... but not anymore.

Here is truth that is both **liberating and sobering: *Not everyone will be changed but everyone could be changed.***

III. God's promised change is \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_ it!

(6:11b)

1. You were \_\_\_\_\_.

2. You were \_\_\_\_\_.

3. You were \_\_\_\_\_.

Let's put it all together:

- **Once we were dirty. Now we are clean.**
- **Once we were unholy. Now we are holy.**
- **Once we were guilty. Now we are justified.**

This is what God can do for anyone who comes to Him in Jesus' name. This is the life-transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And how does this great miracle happen? The end of **verse 11** gives us the answer: **"in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."** It is the mighty name of Jesus that does the work, and it is the Spirit of God that applies the truth of Jesus to the human heart. Here is the promise of God for every person who feels like there is no hope:

**"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved"**  
(Romans 10:13).

### CONCLUSION/INVITATION

Let's wrap up our study this morning with three final statements about **real change**:

1. Real change is \_\_\_\_\_. **Do you \_\_\_\_\_ it?**

2. Real change is \_\_\_\_\_. **Will you \_\_\_\_\_ out and \_\_\_\_\_ it?**

3. Real change is \_\_\_\_\_. **Are you \_\_\_\_\_ for it?**

Take a moment and ponder those three statements, and the three questions. Think about how they apply to your life.

**Christianity is supremely about change.** Everything we say and everything we believe is built upon one fundamental and revolutionary premise: **You don't have to stay the way you are.** Your life can be radically changed by God. Your past does not determine your present or your future. If the gospel is true, then your life can change. And if the gospel cannot change your life, then it is really no gospel at all.

**A transformed life fuels transformed living.** Paul is saying very strongly that it was unacceptable that some believers were behaving like those outside the kingdom. They were acting like their former selves. **They were not saved for that, but from that.**