

**Lesson 19: “Such Were Some of You” 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Craig Crawshaw**

**1 Corinthians 6:9-11** *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, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.*

*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.*

**NEWSFLASH: the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God!**

This should be obvious, as Paul writes, “or do you not know...?”

Jesus taught in Matthew 7:14 that “there are few who find it”, referring to the gate that leads to life. That leaves the majority of mankind not inheriting the kingdom of God – a sobering revelation.

- The “unrighteous” are those who are not “right” in God’s eyes but living a life of continual displeasure to God. There may be “good” in what they do, but their “righteousness” is as “filthy rags.” (Isaiah 64:6)
- “Will not inherit” means that these unrighteous have no hope of a future in God’s kingdom, which has begun here on earth with those who have trusted in Jesus as Lord and will continue forever in God’s heaven. It is God’s kingdom children who have the glorious hope of eternal life with God forever.
- “The kingdom of God” - Remember that Jesus came saying, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand”, meaning that with His earthly presence, God’s kingdom had come for the taking for all who would receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. His kingdom is both now on earth for believers, and forever in His heaven
- We recall from Matthew 12:31-32 that there is only one “unforgiveable” or “unpardonable” sin, and that is “blasphemy against the Spirit.” Thus all who will be excluded from the kingdom of God will have committed this sin. Most, including myself, take this to mean a life-long resistance to the wooing and conviction of the Holy Spirit – thus “blasphemy.” So, we can take Paul’s words in our passage of the day to be describing those who commit this “unforgiveable sin” by a lifelong lifestyle of rebellion and disobedience

The following list of sins – 10 in all – are representative and should be those to which Paul could rightly say “do you not know?” that these would not inherit the kingdom of God.

**10 Unrighteous Sinners**

1. fornicators - those who indulge in sex outside of marriage
2. idolaters – those who make anything or anyone a “god” above the one God of heaven
3. adulterers – those who break their wedding vow of faithfulness or cause another to do so
4. effeminate – those who are (literally) “soft”, perverting their sexually by changing their gender
5. homosexuals – those who practice sexuality with another of the same sex
6. thieves – those who take for themselves what is not theirs to have
7. covetous – those who with envy and jealousy continually wish they had what others have
8. drunkards – those who live a life intoxicated by and addicted to alcohol
9. revilers – those who continually put down and abuse others in an attempt to elevate themselves
10. swindlers – those who cheat and defraud others for their own self-gain

**5 GREAT WORDS OF HOPE: “Such were some of you”**

This simple phrase shows us the power of God to change a life.

Our world has come to believe that “once a \_\_\_\_\_, always a \_\_\_\_\_” (Fill in the blank with any distasteful sin). And sadly, many Christians still believe that same sentiment. Now I agree that once a pattern of sinful behavior has been established in a life, there is every reason to believe that that behavior will continue. That is true of a delinquent youth, as well as of a seasoned criminal. That’s why we monitor

past offenders with restrictions, probations and prisons. It takes a long time of rehabilitation to restore trust, once that trust has been broken. And to assume that one who is by nature is rebellious and callous to the law will transform simply by time and a period of good behavior is naïve.

But we must remember that God has reminded us that we are all sinners at heart, and by nature, and by choice. This is made clear by the apostle Paul in Romans 3:

**Romans 3:10-12** *There is none righteous, not even one. There is none who understands. There is none who seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have become useless. There is none who does good, there is not even one.*

Therefore, we all deserve detention, restrictions, probations and yes, the prison of hell. On our own we have no hope of restoration and rehabilitation. Perfection of character eludes us.

But in these 5 words: "such were some of you" we find the hope of new life and complete transformation.

We don't just need a "makeover," we need a whole new self. And that is what God promises and provides when we come in simple faith to Jesus as our Savior. He doesn't just "make us over" – He makes us into a whole new creation.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

**John 3:6-7** [Jesus:] *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, "You must be born again."*

**Ephesians 2:4-5** *But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

That phrase "made us alive" is a single word in the Greek, which in the King James Version is translated "quicken." Oh, the "quickening" ministry of the Lord which giving new life to that which was formerly dead in sins. Dear believer in Christ, you were "quicken!" And you will never be the same. That old slavery to sin has been given the supernatural power to say "yes" to God. Paul said it this way:

**Romans 6:18** *And having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

**Romans 6:22** *But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## RELATED BIBLICAL CONCEPTS TO "QUICKENING"

- **Being "born again"** – starting a whole new life in the Spirit, by the power of the resurrection of Jesus

**1 Peter 1:3** *Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

- **Being "crucified with Christ"** - dying to self with Christ living in me

**Galatians 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

- **Having "eternal life"** – receiving the very life of God through faith in the sacrifice of Jesus for my sin

**John 5:24** *Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

- **The LOST is FOUND; the BLIND is given SIGHT; the DEAD is given LIFE**

### 3 SUPERNATURAL TRANSFORMATIONS (6:11)

#### 1. Washed

**Titus 3:3-6** *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. But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, 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, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*

- This is what it means to be “cleansed” of our sins.
- This is what Isaiah spoke of in metaphor in the opening verses of his great prophetic book:

**Isaiah 1:18** *Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool.*

- This is what the Psalmist spoke of in poetic imagery:

**Psalms 103:12** *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

- This is what water baptism symbolizes – the washing of our sins by the blood of Jesus and the water of the Word of God.

#### 2. Sanctified

**1 Thessalonians 4:1-8** *Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God... that you excel more... For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor... For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.*

Sanctification comes from the same root word as give us “saint” and it means to be “set apart for God.”

There is both a one-time and a continual meaning to sanctification. When we are saved we are “set apart” for God as “saints” – that is, sanctified. This is a one-time, completed act of sanctification. In this sense Paul could refer to “those who have been sanctified” (1 Cor. 1:2) as completed saints (set apart).

But there is also a continual sanctification that Paul spoke of to the Thessalonians (above) that speaks of a life-long striving for pleasing God in the purity of our life, made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit. This also is the process of sanctification, as we grow into the image of Jesus day by day.

Both aspects of sanctification are completely supernatural.

#### 3. Justified

Justified is a judicial term that means being declared “not guilty.” It is related to Jesus’ statement on the cross of “it is finished,” or literally “paid in full.”

But more than being found “not guilty” we are fully reconciled to God as if we had never committed the crime at all. We are made “just” or “righteous” in God’s eyes – fully restored to fellowship. Supernatural!

**Romans 5:1, 9-10** *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

And, note the involvement of the entire Trinity in this 3 supernatural transformations (v. 11).

Such were you, dear believer - unwashed, unsanctified and unjustified. And were it not for the grace of God we would all be a loser – for eternity. Praise God that He changes lives and can transform the blackest sinner into the whitest saint by his supernatural cleansing, sanctifying and justifying.

I leave you with the chorus from Larnelle Harris' great song:

"Were It Not For Grace" by Larnelle Harris

Were it not for grace, I can tell you where I'd be - wandering down some pointless road to nowhere with my salvation up to me. And I know how that would go - all those battles I would face - forever running but losing the race, were it not for grace.