

## Those Who Will Not Inherit the Kingdom Are Marked By Obvious Sinfulness

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

*This portion comes at the following point in the outline.*

- II. Paul's response to reports of division (1:10-6:20).
  - A. A church divided, internally and against Paul (1:10-4:21).
  - B. Sexual immorality and litigation: how Paul's authority, the gospel, and the wisdom of God apply to real issues (5:1-6:20).
    1. The incestuous man (5:1-13).
    - 2. Lawsuits against each other (6:1-11).**
    3. Sexual immorality with prostitutes (6:12-20).

### Introduction

*Paul has chastened the Corinthians for their practice of taking interpersonal grievances before secular courts rather than dealing with them in the church, or more appropriately being willing to suffer wrong without retaliating.*

*In verses 12-20, he will address the sin of sexual immorality.*

*Here, he picks up on his terminology for the unbelievers in the courts and their whole realm in verse 1 - unrighteous - and discusses how those who show their unrighteousness by being marked by sinfulness are not saved. But the Corinthians are different, and this should also demonstrate itself, looking back to the subject of lawsuits, and forward to the subject of sexual immorality, in addition to the representative sins he specifically lists.*

### Verses

<sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup>nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup>And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

### Questions

1. General.
  - a. What are your initial observations, thoughts, or questions about the passage?
  - b. How would you briefly describe the passage?
    - Those marked by embracing sin, including to but not limited to the list Paul gives, and are indistinguishable from the unbelieving world, are not saved. However, there is a clear difference in believers because of the reality and effects of the gospel.
2. Specific Verses.
  - a. Discuss the following elements of Paul's question in verse 9: How does this connect to the previous verses? What does he mean by "unrighteous"? What is "not inheriting the kingdom of God"?
    - Paul mentioned the "unrighteous" in verse 1 in relation to the Corinthians taking disputes to secular courts. He picks up on that reality in these verses to further enforce the folly of taking disputes to those types of people, and to simply cause reflection in every believer, particularly keeping verses 12-20 in mind.

- “Unrighteous” means those who have not experienced the realities of salvation, like verse 11 mentions. This affects their whole being in action, perspective, standing before God, etc., as the doctrine of total depravity teaches.
  - “Not inheriting the kingdom of God” in its simplest meaning means not being saved and receiving any salvation benefit by faith. But there is so much to it, as we think about God’s kingdom and being a part of it.
- b. Why do you think Paul feels it is necessary to include this list?
- He wants to show the foolishness of taking disputes between Christians to those who are characterized by this. But also, he wants the Corinthians to reflect on the seriousness of being marked by sin like this, as verses 12-20 will expound on. When he says, “Do not be deceived,” he is challenging them to not think that they can persist in these types of sins without repentance and believe they are regenerate.
- c. What are some noteworthy things about the list?
- Sexually immoral - Any sort of sexual immorality, physical or otherwise.
  - Idolaters - Worshiping any false god or religious system, but think about the subtle implications also.
  - Adulterers - This refers more to the specificity of married people and sexual immorality outside marriage.
  - Men who practice homosexuality - The two Greek terms translated by this phrase refer to the passive and active partners in consensual homosexual acts. It is clearly condemning ant gay behavior. See Ro. 1:26-27.
  - Thieves - Stealing anything that doesn’t belong to you.
  - Greedy - A lust for more of whatever is not yours, thinking it will satisfy you. Material specificity.
  - Drunkards - The continued and controlling misuse of alcohol.
  - Revilers - Those who cause harm with words, or are contentious.
  - Swindlers - Deceiving others for gain.
- d. How do we reconcile this with the fact that sometimes genuine Christians do commit these sins?
- “While believers can and do commit these sins, sometimes even for a season, they do not characterize them as an unbroken life pattern. When they do, it demonstrates that the person is not in God’s kingdom. True believers who do sin resent that sin and seek to gain the victory over it.” But again, this is serious.
- e. How does Paul counter this with gospel realities in verse 11? Why is this important?
- He says that some of the Corinthians used to be characterized by these sins. But the effects of the gospel are profound. When we are regenerated and saved by grace through faith, we are made new in every way: washed (positionally and practically cleansed from the “dirtiness” of sin); sanctified (set apart as holy, unlike these sins); justified (considered righteous before God because of Jesus, through the work of the Spirit).
  - This is who we are, and the effect is profound and effective.