

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 22, 1st Corinthians 6:9-11, Who's In and Who's Out

↪ The last time we looked at lawsuits among believers that are taken before our unbelieving world and the message that sends. This time we are going to follow Paul as he follows their line of wrong thinking to its logical ends, 1st Corinthians 6:8 = "you're acting like a bunch of pagans", 1st Corinthians 6:9-11. We are going to spend our time looking at different aspects of God's kingdom, Who's in it, who's out of it, and how our present can become our past in Christ.

1. Who are the Christians?

- ✓ Notice, Paul doesn't say that those who are in, are those who prayed a prayer or who claim to be Christians, but, instead, he lists lifestyles and practices. It's not that our sins, or the lack thereof, make us or unmake us as Christians, but is a person saved when they consistently live in an unrighteous way and with no desire or intention to live in a way that honors God?, it sure begs the question! James 2:17-18, saving faith shows itself in our works. Notice, Paul says that this is something we need to be clear on but is also something about which we could easily be deceived, 1st Corinthians 6:9. Of course, we believe in eternal security; that once someone is saved that they are always saved, but the first question we need to ask is are they truly saved.

2. There is a huge difference between profession and possession.

- ✓ The Bible says that it is possible to profess faith in Jesus without actually possessing faith in Jesus, Matthew 7:21. It's not doing God's will that saves you, but if Jesus is Lord, you will do God's will. Not everyone who professes Jesus possesses Jesus. Not everybody who claims to be a Christian is one. Martin Luther said, "We are saved by faith alone, but not by faith that stands alone," Ephesians 2:8-10. This is a good example of the cart following the horse: the horse is our faith which is followed by the cart which is our works. Paul is saying, "You've got people there who claim to have the horse but there is no cart following it." People were claiming Jesus but living like the devil!

3. The other extreme is to assume that Paul believes someone can lose their salvation by doing the things that he lists here.

- ✓ This, of course, isn't true. If I gained salvation by faith alone and not by any works, how can I lose it by anything that I do? If I didn't gain salvation by what I do, how can I lose it by what I do? If the bible does teach that a person can lose their salvation, then it also teaches that they cannot be resaved, Hebrews 6:5-6. Neither position is correct.

4. The Important point of all that Paul is saying is that we should take both sin and the grace of God very seriously.

- ✓ The List Paul gives in verses 9 and 10 are sins and always will be sins. 1st Corinthians 6:11, the power of the Good News of Jesus is that what we are can become what we were in Him! Our present condition can be changed into our past condition by the power of Jesus. For that to happen we have to be washed, not by human hands but by the hands of Jesus Himself. We have to sanctified or set apart from our sin by God's power.

We have to be justified by having the terrible record of our sin erased and having Jesus' perfect scored put in its place. But before we can become a former of any of these things we have to admit to our current everything.