

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 22, Who's In and Who's Out

1st Corinthians 6:9-11

- ✓ 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: **Verse 8** = "you're acting like a bunch of pagans", **Verses 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.
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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 un-make 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, **Verse 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.
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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: "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 not cart following it."
 - ✓ People were claiming Jesus but living like the devil!
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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.
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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.
 - ✓ **Verse 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 any of these things we have to admit to our current everything.
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