
Such Were Some of You

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

June 27, 2026

CUSTOM

- **Disclaimer:** We are going to discuss some specific topics today that may be **sensitive** for little ones. I will use my best **judgment**, and I trust that you parents will as well. **It will all be within my first point.**
- VBS Highlight / Thank You
- Summer Camp

Introduction

SCRIPTURE

(Jon will read all of it)

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NKJV) [9] 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 homosexuals, nor sodomites,

[10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

[11] And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

ILLUSTRATION

We are in the midst of a crisis...

It is not a crisis that has been caused by a **natural disaster, economic instability, political conflict, or public health concerns.**

It is a crisis that is prevalent in our world today, affecting many people, especially but not exclusively, many young people.

This crisis is the result of a misplaced sense of self and value. **It is an Identity Crisis**

There is a simple question that is asked by so many today, yet is often answered insufficiently and incorrectly.

Who am I? It is a question about identity, regarding one's own sense of purpose, meaning, and value. This question has been asked in various ways: "Is my identity something I discover?" "Something assigned to me? Something I create?" "What is my meaning and purpose? Do I have any value or worth?"

This question **plagues** so many people today.

Although the secular world has attempted to explain this **observable** fact, which includes the coining of the term "Identity Crisis", it has fallen short in providing a **satisfying** answer to these fundamental questions of life.

The **traditional approach** from a secular viewpoint in understanding identity says that your value and purpose come from roles within a community. The role was given or assumed for the good of the family or community. (EX: Farmer)

The **modern approach** says that a person's sense of identity and value is found **within** them. "Dreams, feelings, desires, and aspirations are created and then expressed. It is where modern-day individualism comes from."

- "You be you". "Be true to yourself". "Live your truth". "Do whatever makes you happy".
 - (EX: Disney Movies)

Sadly, these explanations all fall short and will **never** truly satisfy the longing individuals have for purpose. Where the world has failed to answer this question **sufficiently**, God's word brings **clarity** to the **confusion** that troubles so many.

The world says, "*Decide your own identity*"; God's word says, "*It has already been decided.*"

We, as the church, can provide a **true** and **distinct** answer to this question about who we are by looking to God's word and encouraging others to do the same.

However, to do that, we **must** first **understand** and **remember** who we are as followers of Jesus and children of God.

For the sake of Christ and the unbelieving world, we cannot forget **who we are in Him**. We need the **continual reminder** of our identity in Christ.

This is the reminder that Paul the Apostle writes to the believers living in Corinth, one of the most influential cities in the Roman world. A city **rampant** with immorality and sexual promiscuity.

"Corinthianizing" (or Corinthianise) refers to adopting the luxurious, promiscuous, and excessive lifestyle for which ancient Corinth was notorious.

It was out of this **culture** and **way of living** that many of those in the church at Corinth came from. Which helps us understand why this church was one of the most **dysfunctional** churches in the NT.

Paul had planted this church in Acts 18, staying there for a year and a half teaching these new converts, and later writing the 2 NT letters we know as we 1 and 2 Corinthians.

In his letters, Paul addressed many **problems** in the church from things like *disunity, immorality, bad doctrine, false teaching*.

Now, in the **immediate context** of our passage today we read about how Paul addresses some of the **disorders** in the church.

- Ch. 5 addresses the **failure** of the church to **discipline** an immoral brother who had "taken his father's wife" in an incestuous relationship - the church being fully aware of it.
- Early in ch. 6 Paul addresses the **failure** of the church to **resolve personal disputes** with one another. Instead they were taking each other to court suing them over issues that could have been **resolved** among themselves. They were **more than qualified** with the truth, God's Spirit, and everything they had in Christ to settle small matters that came up.
- And late in ch. 6 Paul addresses the **failure** to **maintain sexual purity**, urging them to "flee sexual immorality" (v.18).

These failures and disorders in the church, that everyone knew about, were simply the **result** of the church **forgetting their identity in Christ**. This is why Paul right in the middle sets forth this beautiful reminder.

Now that we have that introduction and a proper understanding of the context Paul writes this passage, we are going to see **3 reminders** that Paul sets forth to his readers today.

1. The Reality of Unrighteousness
2. The Radical Transformation
3. The Redeeming Work of Grace

MAIN POINT 1

The Reality of Unrighteousness (V.9-10)

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NKJV) [9] 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 homosexuals, nor sodomites, [10] nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

ILLUSTRATION

Seatbelt Reminder

Most people know they should wear their seatbelt. We don't need to go to **driving school** everytime we get in the car to learn that it is not only **safest** to wear one but also **legally required**.

Yet, newer cars nowadays will scream at you until you put it on.

The reminder is not because the truth is **complicated**, but because we are a **forgetful** people.

Similarly, Paul reminds them of something that they would have already known and been taught by him.

■ *“Do you not know...”*

A phrase seen 6 times in this chapter alone, implying that these believers should have known these things. **What should they have known?**

■ *“...that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?”*

Who are the “unrighteous”? = Those who have broken God's holy law. The unjust, the ungodly, the wicked. Refers to the unconverted person who has not been born again by faith in Christ. They reject Christ and practice a lifestyle of sin. They remain dead in their sin. **What's to come of them?**

Because of their unrighteous, they **will not** and **cannot** enter the kingdom of God, because they are not related to Christ.

■ *“The Kingdom of God” = The spiritual sphere of salvation where God rules as King over those who belong to Him by faith.*

Believers belong to this kingdom **now**, and will **one day** fully inherit it as children of God when Christ returns.

The wicked have no part in God's kingdom both now and forever.

In fact God's wrath currently resides on them.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 1:18–19

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

SCRIPTURE

John 3:18 (ESV) [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

QUOTE

— Matthew Henry

The scum of the earth are no ways fit to fill the heavenly mansions. Those who do the devil's work can never receive God's wages, at least no other than death, the just wages of sin. (Romans 6:23)

■ *“Do not be deceived”.*

Paul's warning to these believers, especially those who were committing the sins that he is writing to correct, is that they should be deceived/delusional in thinking that sin was no big deal.

Essentially what Paul is telling them is this, **“Don't you realize how serious your sin is?”**

To get his point across, Paul then lists many evils to which these believers **once belonged**. Sins that **define, mark, and identify** the unbeliever.

Before we examine this list, it is important to note something.

While believers can **struggle** with these sins, they do not **characterize** them any longer. In the life of the believer these sins are not **practiced habitually**, as an unbroken life pattern. It is **wrong** to think that a Christian who has committed a sin listed here is **automatically excluded** from God's kingdom. On the flip side, it also does not mean that the sin committed is **no big deal**.

Rather, Paul is describing the unrighteous who are **characterized** by these sins, displaying that they are not in God's kingdom. As we'll see, Paul is reminding them that these behaviors once described them.

Believers who do sin, **resent** the sin they commit, and desire to **gain victory** over it.

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:9-10 (ESV) [9] No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. [10] By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Many are **self-deceived** in believing that they can live their life as a child of the devil and still go to heaven with the children of God.

As we go through this list, examine yourself. **Do any of these describe your life right now? Are you practicing any of these without resentment of the sin?** If so, then ask, **am I saved?**

To begin the list, Paul mentions sins involving **sexual immorality** which makes sense when you remember the **culture** and **context** these believers lived in.

What is sexual immorality? = Using sex in ways that God **prohibits**. What sex does God allow then? The sex between one man and one woman within the covenant of marriage.

Therefore, **practically speaking**, sexual immorality would include not only the things that Paul mentions but also things premarital sex, incest, bestiality, etc.

Sexual immorality encompasses any act of sexual gratification with another person or thing (or fantasy about another) outside of marriage.

CUSTOM

All who indulge in sexual immorality, but particularly unmarried individuals.

CUSTOM

Those who worship any false god or follow any false religious system.

Of course the culture the corinthians lived in was steeped in **pagan worship** of carved images and false gods. Many of these false gods incorporated sex into their worship as well.

Don't think someone can't commit idolatry just because there is no carved image.

Biblically, idolatry is giving to anything or anyone the worship, trust, love, obedience, identity, security, or ultimate value that **belongs** to God **alone**.

John Calvin once said, "The heart is an idol factory".

CUSTOM

Married persons who indulge in sexual acts outside their marriage.

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matthew 5:27-28 ESV

CUSTOM

I would be remiss if I did not spend a few extra moments here in light of this sin’s prevalence and cultural acceptance in our world today.

Before I do, I want to say that it is obvious that Christians are in **err** when they go to the two extremes when speaking about this sinful behavior.

One extreme is excusing homosexuality, denying that it is sin altogether, arguing that the kind of homosexuality that Paul wrote about is not the same as today. We’ll see why that is an error in a moment.

The other extreme is when Christians **single out** this sinful behavior as something God is uniquely angry with and are less inclined to make mention of other “tolerated” sins like gossip, lying, gluttony, jealousy, etc.

Paul does not single out this one as the center of the list of vices.

- malakoi and arsenokoitai
- *malakoi* (**homosexuals**, which literally refers to male prostitutes) and *arsenokoitai* (**sodomites**, a generic term for all homosexual practice).

In recent years, there has been a **futile attempt** by many progressive theologians who argue that homosexuality as we know it today is not expressly prohibited in the bible.

In fact, there was a film that came out only a few years ago entitled: *1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture*, which argues that the word here in 1 cor. 6 was a mistranslation and therefore does not refer to modern day homosexuality.

This of course is silly for several reasons. Yes, even though that is the first time we see the word homosexual used in the english bible, it does not deny **the act** that is clearly being described in the Greek word Paul uses and which is affirmed by the rest of scripture.

- Original language not translation
- Concepts vs. specific words
 - Arsenokoitai literally means “men who lie with a male.”
- Historical consensus
 - Church tradition

- Plus, we know that homosexuality was rampant in the Roman world. (14 of first 15 emperors).
- Consistency throughout scripture
 - Sodom, Leviticus, Jesus

*For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; **27** and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. Romans 1:26–27*

Man will do whatever he can to justify his sin instead of humbling himself and agreeing with God in what He says is detestable and an abomination.

CUSTOM

Stemming from **greed**, those who are **covetous** desire what belongs to others, **thieves** actually take it. The greedy person only cares for himself. Rarely does anyone ever admit to being covetous.

CUSTOM

Those who get **intoxicated** with alcohol. Allowing it to master them.

Later in ch. 11 Paul would address how some in the church were getting drunk at Communion.

CUSTOM

Those who are **verbally abusive**. People who try to destroy others with words.

EX: Someone who uses words like weapons. Comments section.

This behavior is not consistent with belonging to Christ.

CUSTOM

Swindlers and embezzlers who steal indirectly, taking unfair advantage of others for their own financial gain.

Ex: A scammer

Paul's point here is not give an exhaustive list of all sins. Elsewhere he writes to believers of other characterizations of the unrighteous.

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5:19-21 (CSB) [19] Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, moral impurity, promiscuity, [20] idolatry, sorcery, hatreds, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions, [21] envy, drunkenness, carousing, and anything similar. I am warning you about these things—as I warned you before—that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:3-5 (ESV) [3] But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. [4] Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. [5] For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Paul's primary concern wasn't creating a **definitive list** of sins that **exclude** people from heaven but rather addressing the **disconnect** between the Corinthians' **new identity** in Christ and their **disorders** that Paul writes to correct.

APPLICATION

What do we think when we look over that list ourselves?

This is Paul's **reminder** regarding the reality of unrighteous. These are the things that **describe** the **unconverted sinner**. The one who has not received the righteousness of Christ **required** to enter the kingdom of God. These are **behaviors** of the life **apart** from Christ.

But they were also the behavior that **once** identified some of these believers. But no longer. Because something **radical** took place in their life.

MAIN POINT 2

The Radical Transformation

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

[11] And such were some of you....

ILLUSTRATION

Many of us are familiar with a man named, Jeffery Dahmer.

He was a notorious serial killer who did agriegous things that I will not make mention of here.

What some do not know is that before his death, Dahmer **reportedly professed** repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

Now, of course we know that whether that is true or not was between him and God.

However, the point is that if Dahmer's profession of faith was **genuine**, then he stands as a shocking reminder that no sinner is beyond the reach of God's grace.

Not because his sin was small, but because **Christ and His grace is greater.**

Here within this **powerful statement** we are reminded of this **marvelous reality**. That no one is too far gone in their sin to experience the grace of God.

Paul himself, a persecutor of the church and personally seeing thourh the execution of Christians, would say, ...

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 1:15 (NKJV) [15] This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

First, I want you to notice that Paul does not say, "Such were all of you".

It was not **all** in the church at Corinth who were **enslaved** to the sinful practices he just listed.

That does not mean that some of them weren't sinners, just that some of them were guilty of those particular sins.

Paul needed to remind his readers of the sinful life they came out of and the transformation Christ had done in them so that **they would not return to the old life.**

Paul reminded the Ephesians so a similar truth.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:1-5

2 And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:17-18 (CSB)

[17] But thank God that, although you used to be slaves of sin, you obeyed from the heart that pattern of teaching to which you were handed over, [18] and having been set free from sin, you became enslaved to righteousness.

We **constantly** need this reminder of where we once were and when Christ radically transformed us. The bible regularly calls us as believers to remember our identity in Christ and not turn back to old sinful life.

Secondly, I want you to notice that Paul does not say, “Such are some of you”.

These things **cannot characterize** believers in the present. (Again remembering that it doesn't mean you can't struggle with these things as a believer.)

The Bible however calls us to the **pursuit** of holiness in the present.

SCRIPTURE

Romans 6:19 (NIV)

... Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 4:17-22 (CSB) [17] Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their thoughts. [18] They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts. [19] They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more. [20] But that is not how you came to know Christ, [21] assuming you heard about him and were taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, [22] to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires,

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:6-8 (CSB)

...God's wrath is coming on the disobedient because of these things. [7] Therefore, do not become their partners. [8] For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light—

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:5-7 (CSB) [5] Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. [6] Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, [7] and you once walked in these things when you were living in them.

SCRIPTURE

Titus 3:3-6 (ESV)

3 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. **4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, **7** so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) [17] Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Here is the point: Christ has transformed our lives through His sacrificial death on the cross. We were **one way**, but have now been **changed**. We once were **dead** in sin, but now are **made alive** in Christ. We were **outside** of the kingdom, but now have been brought **in**.

The reality is that if it weren't for God's **gracious intervention**, we alongside the believers Paul is writing to would still be stuck in our sin. If not for the **radical transformation** God brought to our life when we repented of our sin and placed our faith in Jesus Christ.

CONSIDERING

When we personally consider the list of sins that once stained us and we can't help but ask why God would chose to save some of the worst of sinners.

MAIN POINT A

It demonstrates the power of the Gospel

MAIN POINT B

It magnifies His mercy

MAIN POINT C

It reveals the uselessness of self-righteousness

Some may say, "If God does save anybody, it's those who go to church, serve others, pray, read their bibles, etc."

If this is what you think, you are a **proud sinner**. And **pride** is the worst of sins.

You think you **see**, but in reality you are **blind**. You think you are good with God based off your ability to obey God's commands. And in thinking so you are admitting that you don't think you need the Savior.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 5:32 (CSB) [32] I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

MAIN POINT D

It demonstrates the open invitation to all

APPLICATION

When we consider this list that characterize the unrighteous who will not enter the kingdom of God, it should cause us to **never** be **unloving** or **uncaring** towards them. **Why?**

Because we were once them...

It should cause us to make **even more** of an effort to tell them about the message of salvation that **save them** from their sin and the wrath to come, that can give them a **new identity**, and bring them **into the kingdom** of their Creator God.

The **beautiful truth** about this one simple statement is that no matter how serious the sin was, **all can be forgiven** through faith in Christ.

Romans 5:20-21 (ESV) [20] Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, [21] so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

▮ *Our sin was great, yet the Savior is greater.*

This is what the gospel of Jesus Christ and the grace of God does in our lives. The gospel does not merely **improve** our lives, making us better versions of ourselves. But it **radically changes** our identity.

Christians are not defined by former sins, current temptations, cultural labels, or past shame. We are defined by what God has done in Christ.

This is the radical transformation of our identity we have come to experience.

Paul has not only reminded his readers of the reality of the unrighteous, but also the radical transformation, what Christ has done for us. Now he reminds his readers of how God has done this work in their life.

MAIN POINT 3

The Redeeming Work of Grace

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 6:11 (NKJV)

... But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Here Paul pivots to the **foundation** of our **new identity** in Christ. Grammatically, there is an emphasis on something **extraordinary** that takes place. **Despite** having no right relationship with God by any standard, these believers had been **washed, sanctified, and justified**.

The change that these believers experienced did not take place by any **human effort**, but **solely** as an act of God's **divine grace** towards us through the work of the Trinity.

"Such were some of you" tells us **what** happened to these believers.

This statement, explains **how** it happened. By God's redeeming grace we were **washed, sanctified, and justified**.

CUSTOM

Washed = To wash off/away.

What is pictured here in this word is that the sinner was **polluted** with the **filth** of their sin. God in His grace **washed** us clean of that filth.

Titus 3:5 (NIV) He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

Revelation 1:5 (NKJV) To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

We were washed clean by the mercy of God, having the filthy stain of our sin made pure forever by the finished work of Christ on the cross.

There is a fountain fill'd with blood, Drawn from Immanuel's veins; And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, Lose all their guilty stains. - William Cowper, *There is a Fountain Filled with Blood*

- Baptism's representation

- the "washing" is accomplished entirely by the Holy Spirit and the sacrifice of Christ, while baptism is a public declaration of that already-completed cleansing.

CUSTOM

Sanctified = To make holy; to set apart for God.

When we were born-again, God set us apart away from the world and unto Himself.

Hebrews 10:10 (ESV)[10] And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The sanctified life we now have **in** Jesus and **because** of Jesus, will result in **new behavior**. Those who have been sanctified, are presently being sanctified.

Sin no longer **dominates** the believers life but rather **obedience** to God's word and a **pursuit** of God's holiness.

Not perfection, but progression.

CUSTOM

Justified = To be declared righteous; to have guilt removed.

In the courtroom of Heaven, where God the just judge sits ready to deal out justice, we stand having the guilt of our sin **removed entirely** and **placed upon** the innocent lamb of God.

There we stand **no longer** in our own unrighteousness, but **clothed** in the righteousness of Christ.

Our sins that **incurred** God's just wrath were put to the **account** of His perfect Son, and He **suffered** on the cross for them.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)[21] For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

It is all a work of **God's grace**. It is only by grace through faith that we are declared right with God the just judge, not by our own deeds.

Romans 3:23-26 (CSB) [23] For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; [24] they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. [25] God presented him as the mercy seat by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. [26] God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would be righteous and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus.

The three verbs describe **one spiritual reality** and **experience of salvation**—the one fundamental transformation for those who belong to Christ. **It is done**. These things are **complete**. The new identity has been given.

What is incredible about all of this, is that God can take the kind of people listed in v.9-10 and make them into the kind of people in v.11. This is the power of the redeeming work of God's grace towards us.

“in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” - v.11

God’s gracious acts accomplished through Christ and applied by the Spirit.

APPLICATION

Understanding now that our identity is in Christ, that we have been washed, sanctified, and justified in Him, the question is, how does this change the way we live?

1. Stop defining yourself by what Christ has cleansed

“Dirty”, “damaged”, “failure”, “addict”, words that many Christians still carry with them as identifying markers.

Psalm 103:12 — “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us”

1. Do not make peace with what Christ set you apart from

Believers are not merely forgiven from sin’s penalty, but are set apart from sin’s **domination**.

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? - Romans 6:1-2

God’s grace does not give us **permission** to return to the old life. It gives us **power** to live in the newness of life.

Since God has set us apart from the world, we cannot be **comfortable** with trying to belong to both.

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. - James 4:4 ESV

1. Fight from your new identity, not for it.

Since we have been declared right with God through faith, we pursue holiness out of obedience.

Dear saint, you do not obey God so that God will declare you righteous, you obey **because** God already has made you righteous.

1. When you stumble, run to Christ.

When you sin do not hide in your shame. Rather be quick to repent and run back to the One who saved you.

- Sin does not negate your salvation.

Conclusion

As the church, we too alongside the believers in Corinth need these **powerful reminders** today.

In a world confused about identity and purpose, the gospel teaches us that our identity is not something we create, receive from the culture, or discover within ourselves.

It is given by God through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

1. The Reality of Unrighteousness

Sin is **serious**. We cannot be deceived in thinking that it is not. God's word is **clear**, the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.

This **used** to be our identity. That is before we experienced the radical transformation.

1. The Radical Transformation

Our old life no longer **defines** us. Through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, we are made new creations. The **old** has passed away, the **new** has come. This is what God did and He did it through His redeeming work of Grace.

1. The Redeeming Work of Grace

We were **washed, sanctified, and justified** by the Grace of God. Our new identity **rests** in God's grace, not our performance.

For the Believer:

We are reminded today of our identity in Christ. May these realities give us the hope and confidence we need to reach a lost world for Christ, remembering that we were one of them.

QUOTE

— Charles Spurgeon

As long as there are, in the world, sinners of this character, there must be servants of the Lord Jesus Christ faithful enough to pluck the velvet from their mouths (abandon gentle speech), and to speak with the utmost plainness about them and to them.

- Accountability, confession, discipleship.

For the unbeliever:

No amount of **self-improvement** can make you **right** with God. Jesus offers **forgiveness** and a **new identity** as a free gift, received through faith.

The path to salvation isn't through **behavioral modification** but through **accepting** Christ's finished work on the cross. When we place our faith in Him, we receive **complete forgiveness** and a new identity, regardless of our past.

What must you do?

Call upon the name of the Lord and be saved. Turn away from your sin completely, and place your trust in Christ alone.

■ *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life. - John 3:36*

“If you are still living under the power and guilt of sin, the answer is not to clean yourself up and then come to Christ. Come to Christ, and He will make you clean. Repent, believe, and receive the grace of the Savior who washes sinners, sets them apart, and declares them righteous before God.”

COMMUNION