

Moving From What We Were to What We Are

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

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1. Sometimes we who are the church do not always act like who we really are. Paul says the Corinthians were God's people, called to be saints, which means "holy ones."
 2. In the time of Paul, Corinth was a moral cesspool that combined all the sins of Las Vegas, San Francisco, and New York City into one conglomerate of iniquity.
 3. Yet, Paul went into the wicked city and preached the good news of Jesus Christ. He preached the story of God's love shown to us at the cross.
 4. There is no letter to any church in the NT that has as much correction and repentance needed as the letters to the Corinthians.
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- I. Paul Asks A Probing Question. 1 Corinthians 6:9, "Do you not know...?"
 - A. This is a question he asks a dozen times in this letter.
 - B. Then in verse 9 Paul tells them plainly, "Do not be deceived."
 - II. Paul States a Presenting Problem. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, "Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God."
 - A. Paul plainly tells us that not everyone is going to heaven.
 - B. So, Paul says to us, "Do not be deceived."
 1. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10
 - III. Paul Describes Our Present Possibilities. 1 Corinthians 6:11, "And that is what some of you were. 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."
 - A. Paul is telling us that there is hope for us.
 - B. Paul says, "But you were washed."
 1. Titus 3:5, "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,"
 - C. Paul says, "you were sanctified..."
 - D. Finally, he says, "You were justified."
 - IV. Some Lessons We Need To Learn.
 - A. Number one is that there are moral dimensions to our Christian commitment.
 - B. Second, there is power available to bring about our transformation.
 - C. Finally, the church needs to be open to all.