

# PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

## 1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

### **THE WAY WE WERE**

*HOW TO BE A CHURCH THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD*

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

**Maturity, Servant hood, Leadership, Discipleship**

### **The Issue of Christian Conduct has Been Paul's Theme**

From how they should act as representatives of Jesus on the street to how they live among one another in the church – so far they had gotten about a D- in their grade. A carnal church, a divided church, a critical church, a sinful church...

Now Paul Seeks to Revive Them, Call Them to Life with God's Truth.

And He Will Use The Only Thing That Works; The Bible Says of Itself That It Is **Authored** By God, **Sustained** By God, and **Eternal**, All By God's Design.

### **1 Corinthians 6:9-11**

**:9** Do you not know (stop thinking like you don't know this) 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.**

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

**Deuteronomy 4:2**

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

**Proverbs 30:5-6**

Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. :6 Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

**Revelation 22:18-19**

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; :19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book.

Jesus Christ Himself "Bookends" The Old Testament & New...

**Matthew 5:17-18**

"Do not think that I came to destroy **the Law or the Prophets**. (the totality of the scripture) I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. :18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

So then, the choices that we can make matter in life  
And they very well could keep us out of heaven.

**THE WAY WE WERE**

WHAT WE USE TO BE LIKE IN THIS WORLD

**1.) Why were we like that before?**

**v.9a**

**This You Can Blame On Your Mom and Dad.  
Because We Were Born Into a Lie & We've All Been Deceived**

**1a.) Because we were all born lost**

9 Do you not **know** (*stop thinking like you don't know this*)

### **Ephesians 2:1-11**

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) :6 and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, :7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. :8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, :9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. :10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. :11 Therefore remember that.....

## **WHY WERE WE LIKE THAT BEFORE?**

### **1b.) Because we were all unfit for His family**

9a ...that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

According to the Bible, *man is born a rebel* and before he can crawl, he's on the move toward trouble...

Who are "The Unrighteous"?

#### **Romans 3:23**

for **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

I know this morning that I might be speaking to just one person today, who's "inside-life" is all but dead. Your life is empty, meaningless and nothing satisfies...

#### **Isaiah 45:22**

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.

## Who are “The Righteous”?

### Romans 3:21-22

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, :22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

## WHY WERE WE LIKE THAT BEFORE?

### 1c.) Because we were all self-deceived

:9a Do not be **deceived**...

But now **it's time to stop it** – to not allow it anymore!



**deceived** *planaζw planao, plan-ah'-o*; to roam or wander off from the path of safety, truth, or virtue. To go astray by entertaining deception or seduction.

### Colossians 3:14-16

But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. :15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. :16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

## THE WAY WE WERE

WHAT WE USE TO BE LIKE IN THIS WORLD

### 2.) How did we ever change?

v.9b-10

**This We Can Attribute to The Love of God.  
Because What We Could Not Do for Ourselves, He Did for Us.**

### 2a.) We were invited by the Father

**9b** ...Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,  
nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

**Notice: There is a Division of Sins Listed Here.  
This Part Deals with Sexual Sins - and they are All  
Sins of Choice...**

☞ **fornicators**, - πορνοῦσ pornos, *por'-nos*; to sell or give away sexually. A promiscuous male or one who prostitutes oneself. A whoremonger.

☞ **idolaters**, - εἰδωλόλατρῶσ idololatreσ, *i-do-lol-at'-race*; a sexual servant and or sexual worshipper .

☞ **adulterers**, - μοικοῦσ moichos, *moy-khos'*; a paramour; one who enters into a marriage not their own. A person who sets out to divide a man and woman by sexual or illicit means.

☞ **homosexuals**, - μαλακοῦσ malakos, *mal-ak-os'*; to play the same roll. To act out the gender of another. A sexual catamite.

☞ **sodomites**, - ἀρσενικοῖσ arsenokoiteσ, *ar-sen-ok-oy'-tace*;  
a willful yielding over to self-abuse

**Romans 1:24-27**

Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **:25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **:26** For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. **:27** Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

## **HOW DID WE EVER CHANGE?**

### **2b.) We were convicted by the Spirit**

**10a** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners...

**John 16:5-9**

“But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ :6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. :7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. :8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: :9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; :10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; :11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

**HOW DID WE EVER CHANGE?**

**2c.) We were redeemed by the Son**

**10b** None of these, as they are - - **will inherit the kingdom of God.**

will not (have access) the kingdom of God?

**Galatians 2:16**

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

**Acts 4:12, Philippians 2:10-11**

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”... **Phil. 2:9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, - **Phil. 2:10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, :11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Romans 4:5**

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,

**THE WAY WE WERE**

WHAT WE USED TO BE LIKE IN THIS WORLD

**3.) Now we can never be the way we were!**

**v.11**

**Because a Forever, Total Transformation Has Occurred.  
Because Our God Goes to Work & He Always Finishes the Job.**

## A Real Christian is a New Man or Woman

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18**

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. :18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

## What We Are Not - Are Seasonal Believers

**Hebrews 6:4-6**

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, :5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, :6 if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

## **WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE**

### **3a.) Because the old us died that day**

11 And such **were some** of you...

**Not all of you, just some of you.** Because the rest of you had different sins and ungodly issues that prevented you from entering heaven.

I can tell you from personal experience;

I've been to Corinth and I have seen the remnants and archeology of the murals and artifacts from that first century and I must tell you, I was sickened by their statues and figurines and carved idols of the most grotesque, sexual acts.

In the Midst of my Disgust, this verse came to mind and I was so convicted and ashamed because it had dawned on me – I was a hypocrite because their sins seemed so dirty and gross and freaky weird... from God's perspective, they were just like me.

**A healthy remembrance of where** we have come from is a good thing. (1) – it keeps us humble. (2) – it causes gratitude, (3) – it makes us merciful, (4) – it encourages us to tell others about our great God.

**Psalm 8:3**

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, The moon and the stars, which You have ordained, :4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man

**Hell is Filled with Those Who We Would Grade as “Good People”**

## **WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE**

### **3b.) Because the new us lives since that day**

**11a ...But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified**

This is the “New You”

**Ephesians 5:26**

that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

**“Washed”** Implies that this was the first act in their conversion experience – **they heard the word of God.**

**John 15:3**

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

**This “Washing: is and has been the Work of the Holy Spirit in You.**

**1 Corinthians 12:13**

For **by** one Spirit we were all **baptized** into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

This is “How” our new life is made new – we are “deposited” or “inserted” in the family of God by the Holy Spirit – It’s what He does.



## Sanctified

He picked them up out of the spirit of this world, and placed His spirit in them and then set them back into this world a totally different being – a child of God.

### Jude 1

Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James. To those who are called, **sanctified** by God the Father, and **preserved** in Jesus Christ:

## Justified

The picture here is of a courtroom and you are the defendant. You take your seat but you notice that you have no attorney. On the Prosecution side is Moses with the 10 commandments. Then you hear, “all rise” and the Judge and your attorney walks in and sits next to you. When all the charges are read against you, Jesus, your attorney says, a deal’s been made. Jack has no charges against him, in fact, I can’t find anything wrong at all.

### Galatians 3:11

But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God *is* evident, for *“the just shall live by faith.”*

*“The man who is made righteous in the sight of God has to be made holy by the grace of God.”*

## WE CAN'T GO BACK TO THE WAY WE WERE

### 3c.) Because the forever us is the real us

**11b** in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

“in the name of” the Lord Jesus  
(demons fled, sinners saved, dead men lived, lives changed)

### Romans 3:23-25

For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard. **:24** Yet now God in his gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, who has freed us by taking away our sins. **:25** For God sent **Jesus** to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God’s anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe that Jesus shed his blood, sacrificing his life for us.

“in the name of”

**John 8:36**

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

“in the name of”

**Romans 8:30-32**

Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. :31 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? :32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all,

And by the Spirit of our God

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, :22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

**Titus 3:5-7**

not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, :6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, :7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

————— *End of Study* —————