

Becoming Who You Are

I Corinthians 6:9-11

The Corinthians had a second spiritual eyesight issue—they thought they were spiritual, when they were really worldly

What?

We were guilty, worldly and outside; now we're washed, made holy and justified

Realizing what we are not—

They thought they were spiritual because of the presence of these sign-gifts, when really they were immature and worldly

This leads Paul to list relational sins that should not characterize believers

Some were even leading others astray by participating in idolatrous feasts, celebrations

Paul says, “don't be deceived,” no matter who you are

➤ Those who are not-yet believers

Their lives were **characterized** by the evil Paul lists

Only Jesus can **release us** from the guilt, the power and the judgment of sin

➤ Those who are believers

For many the list was a **call to integrity, consistency**

These sins **don't cause you to lose your salvation**

But none of these practices **belong in God's kingdom**

The Spirit is cleaning these areas out of our lives, and our **lives should be no longer characterized by them**

➤ Those who think they are believers

For some, the list was a **serious wake-up call**

Impurity and relational sin as a way of life indicate the lips may have confessed, but the heart believed in the wrong thing

The remedy is not to do more right things—the **remedy is heart repentance and belief**

The Jesus connection—

Mark 7:21–23, ESV—For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person”

Pretense can look good, but it's your heart that matters

So What?

Jesus has done **everything necessary to take you off this list**

Washed—Rebirth washes the sins of the past away so that **we start with a new slate**

Sanctified—this sets us apart from the world, **consecrates us to holy lives** in fellowship with God

Justified—Christ's **righteousness has been credited to us**
Paul is saying, “**Become who you really are in Christ**”

The corrective lens is **believing the truth of what Jesus has done to get us off the list**, then living it out by His Spirit

Titus 3:5, ESV—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

Now What?

Review Paul's list and for each item affirm to the Lord the holy quality He has given you instead

Stop on any item that convicts you, confess and submit to the Spirit in that area