



## SERMON SERIES STUDY GUIDE

### Such Were Some of You, Pt. 3

Pastor John Riggs

#### Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 6:9–11
- 1 Corinthians 1:30–31
- John 3:16–17
- Galatians 5:19–24
- Ephesians 5:1–12

#### Key Points:

- True righteousness, necessary for inheriting God's kingdom, is not self-measured but is God's perfect standard, which humanity cannot achieve on its own.
- The gospel offers the imputed righteousness of God through Jesus Christ, who fulfilled God's perfect standard and atoned for humanity's sins.
- Genuine faith in Christ involves more than just belief; it requires complete trust, commitment, and a transformed life, demonstrated by actions.
- Paul warns against deception and lists behaviors that are contrary to inheriting God's kingdom, urging believers to be measured by God's standard, not cultural norms.
- Paul lists specific behaviors of the unrighteous to define what believers should avoid, emphasizing these are violations of God's standards, not just cultural norms.
- The transformation through Christ means believers are no longer defined by their past sins, as 'such were some of you' indicates a past state, not a present identity.
- Inheriting the kingdom of God is a divine inheritance and covenant privilege, not a universal destination, and is tied to one's relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Believers are saved by grace through faith, not by works, but this does not negate the importance of conduct, as good works are a natural outcome of regeneration.

- Believers are considered temples of the Holy Spirit and are called to live as saints, meaning they are set apart and holy, and must not desecrate their bodies.
- Sanctification is an ongoing process where God conforms believers to the image of His Son, often using challenging life circumstances to refine their character.
- The Christian life involves a continuous battle between the old self (flesh) and the new self (Spirit), requiring believers to actively 'crucify the flesh' and live by the Spirit.
- The term 'saint' in Christian theology refers to every believer being set apart and holy to God, not an exclusive title granted by a church.
- Christians are called to live a life distinct from the 'Gentiles' (unbelievers) by abstaining from sins like sexual immorality, idolatry, and greed, as these actions wrong fellow believers and dishonor God.
- The core of Christian salvation is the complete washing away of sins and their debt through the blood of Jesus Christ, a concept rooted in Old Testament sacrificial laws and fulfilled in Christ.
- Believers face an ongoing spiritual battle between their flesh and the spirit, but they are empowered by the Holy Spirit and have Jesus Christ as a sympathetic High Priest to overcome sin.
- True repentance and faith are crucial for Christians struggling with sin, leading to restored fellowship with God and enabling them to live a life of purpose and joy now, not just in the future.

**NOTES:**

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**Question and Answer:** (answers provided on pages 25-27 of the study)

Q: How should Christians measure their righteousness?

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Q: What is the role of Jesus Christ in achieving righteousness before God?

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Q: What is the difference between belief and faith as discussed in the sermon?

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Q: What does Paul mean by 'the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God'?

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Q: What does the Bible mean by 'unrighteousness'?

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Q: Will people who practice unrighteous acts inherit the kingdom of God?

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Q: What is the meaning of 'inheriting the kingdom of God'?

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Q: If believers are saved by grace, does their conduct matter?

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Q: What does it mean for a believer to be a 'temple of the Holy Spirit'?

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Q: What is sanctification and how does it happen?

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Q: Why is there a constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit in a Christian's life?

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Q: What are the 'works of the flesh' mentioned in Galatians 5?

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Q: What does it mean to be a 'saint' in Christianity?

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Q: Why does the Bible list specific sins like sexual immorality and greed?

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Q: If my sins are washed away, why do I still struggle with temptation?

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Q: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life regarding sin?

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Q: What should I do if I am struggling with sin as a Christian?

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Q: Does the Old Testament Law still apply to Christians today?

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Q: What does it mean to be 'justified' before God?

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## Sermon Transcript:

So, if you would, would you open your Bibles with me to the New Testament to First Corinthians? And we have been studying this letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to these believers who had heard the gospel when he came to Corinth and preached the gospel to them. Spent 18 months there and of course continued on with the work that God had given him to start churches um all over that region. And so we know that um these people here had a really good foundation. Of course, the Apostle Paul, can you imagine him being your primary teacher for 18 months? Uh would have been pretty amazing. But no doubt there were still a lot of things that were causing some conflict and problems with these Christians in Corinth coming out of very pagan society, much like our society here in America today in the West. um very very um sexually driven, very promiscuous society. Understanding that they worshiped the goddess, their primary goddess was Aphrodite. And uh they worshiped this goddess with 1,000 prostitutes who served in the temple. And that's how they actually engaged themselves in worship of this goddess. their primary goddess was to engage in prostitution with these prostitutes in the temple and that's how they believed according to their own religious system that they were joined together with this goddess and so very very very lewd society uh sexually immoral as I mentioned to you several times the coined phrase was to act like a Corinthian simply meant to indulge yourselves in all kinds of immoral sexual ual behavior, just deviant behavior. So, you can imagine a a a huge city there, a port city on both sides, all of the people coming through there, coming there to take part in all of these things. It was a very very um dark area of um of that part in the world, especially when it came to um the bright light of the gospel that shone there for these people. And so what we're looking at is we're looking at a compilation of a group of people that came out of that environment. And then also there were Jews that were also living in Corinth that were also saved from the preaching of the gospel. Paul went to the Jews first the and then he would go to the Gentiles. Once they got a little bit rough with him and threw him out, then he would go to the Gentiles and he would preach the gospel to them. And so this church that we're looking at and we're reading this letter that was written to them in the first century, you understand that they've come out of a really uh pagan society, all of the background of that along with the Jews. And so we have this mixture of these people much like our churches are today, a great mix of people. And so Paul is having to write this letter, having received a report about some of the stuff that was going on in this church. their conduct was not in line with what it really meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ. And so Paul the Apostle is writing this letter to address these issues and these problems. This isn't his first letter we've learned. It's actually his second letter. He'll make another visit there as well. And then he'll write a third letter which we call second Corinthians. But he loved these people because they were really like his children in the faith. They'd come to believe the gospel. He had a great love and sincere devotion to these folks. and he cared immensely like a father does for his children um in regards to their spiritual well-being. And so that's when we get in here, we understand a little bit about what Paul is doing. That's why we try to preach through the entire book so we get an overall picture of the landscape of what's really going on. And today we're going to learn a little bit more. We've been in this passage in 1 Corinthians chapter 6:es 9-11. We've been here now I think three weeks and we can spend more time here actually because we haven't even had a chance yet to get into the whole teaching of what is the kingdom of God. What is it? Um you're going to learn how incredible it is to be part of the kingdom of God. We came out of the domain of darkness or the kingdom of Satan if you will and we've been rescued and we've been delivered into the kingdom of the glorious son. For those of us who are here that by faith have trusted and believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our faith has been placed on Jesus Christ and we've trusted in him and we have been born

again and regenerated by the spirit of God becoming children of God. And so the the Apostle Paul is writing this letter to them to address these issues. And he's going to do that again today. And we're going to get into more detail here about what is Paul really getting at when he's writing this section and all these others that we find that Paul writes not only in this letter but to other letters to other churches. And he addresses much of the same behavior in many of the churches that he writes their letters to. There's a reason for that because not everybody who has come to faith in Christ here has a full understanding of what it really means to be born again, if you will, as being new in Christ Jesus. And Paul's going to address their behavior or their conduct because their conduct now it needs to be in line with who they are in Jesus Christ because it affects our witness and our testimony. And Paul knew that this church was the only light that would shine in this community. And so it mattered greatly how they were living. And previous to this, he was addressing them because they were suing one another, taking themselves to court, suing one another in these um civil court cases and all the things that were going on. Paul tells them, "Surely there's somebody among you that can settle these disputes. I mean, you're going to judge the angels and you're going to judge the world, man. Come on. Surely somebody can do this." And so Paul's having to teach them these truths. And we're going to learn even today in our time in this day about how we should be living for Christ if we are Christians. And it matters greatly. Paul had great insight into these things. That's why Paul is addressing these things over and over and over again. Why? Because it matters greatly for the Christian. Not only in this life, but in the life to come. It matters. And so as we look at this passage here, we see that Paul is going to speak twice now in these three verses about those who will not inherit the kingdom of God. And he mentions that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Now Paul says, "Do you not know? Don't you understand this? That the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God." He says, "Do not be deceived, neither." And then he's going to give a list of those things that are unrighteous. Why is Paul doing this? Here's one reason that Paul is addressing this. Number one, if you speak to people here, primarily in the south, and I say that because I've lived in other areas, but primarily when you come to the buckle of the Bible belt, as we find ourselves here in the south, if you were to strike up a conversation with someone about God or where they would spend eternity if they die, you'll find it very interesting that most people will respond that they believe that when they die, they will go to heaven. And they'll say, you'll say, 'Well, why do you believe that you're going to do that?' Well, they say, 'Well, I think I'm a pretty good guy. I mean, I'm not as good as some, but I'm certainly not as bad as others. In other words, they have a standard by which they have measured themselves in which they think that they're better than some and not quite so good as others, but surely God will let me into heaven because I believe I'm a pretty good guy or a pretty good woman. And so they have failed to understand the d the true righteousness of God because they're measuring themselves by the wrong standard. See, scripture says that Jesus Christ or God, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, they God, the Godhead is righteous. God is fully righteous. What does that mean? He's perfectly holy. And the standard by which we should measure ourselves as to whether or not we will receive eternal life is not by the standard of how we measure ourselves against different people of the culture we live in. But we measure that standard by the standard of God himself. That's how we measure ourselves. And what do we know? We find out that no one is righteous, not even one. Why? Because we all in Adam have sinned and we sin. Therefore, we are unrighteous and we have been separated from God. And so, this is why we need the gospel because without holiness or perfection or righteousness, scripture tells us that no one will see God. And some of you were saying, "Well, John, that's impossible for us to attain to perfection." And you're absolutely right. That's why the gospel is so imperative and so important throughout the history of the age of grace. Why? because we need the gospel

because we cannot attain to the righteous standard of God which is perfection. And so here's an issue that we're looking at. You'll talk to people all the time, many people in churches today even thinking this way that by well sure I mean I'm I'm I'm in church. I'm giving little God his time. I try to be a good person. I mean I'm not out there just whacking people and killing folks and doing all these things. But you're measuring yourself by the wrong standard. The standard is God. He is perfectly holy, righteous. That's who he is. He is just. So the standard in which Paul is teaching them and he's going to show them here is the standard of righteousness that God gave to measure themselves by. And it's just a small uh a listing of God's perfection or his standard if you will. And so when you come here, you'll find like in John 3:16-17, it says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved." So this is the whole point and why Christ God in flesh came in order that mankind who is separated from God unrighteous in their behavior in their conduct in their sin might receive by faith the righteousness of God in Jesus Christ. This is how we are made righteous before God. In fact, he says this in 1 Corinthians 1:30. If you'll look at this just quickly, turn back in your Bibles a page or two and you'll find this. So, if you're here this morning or you're listening or watching today, listen, if you're measuring your standard of righteousness according to the people in your life or the culture in which you live in and you think, "Yeah, I'm on the upper echelon of that." Listen, you're you're measuring yourself by the wrong standard and you're deceived. And that's what Paul is going to get at here. But notice and Paul says in 1 Corinthians chapter 1:30 through 31, we looked at this already. He says, "And because of him, that is God the Father, because of him, you are in Christ, who is God the Son, who became to us wisdom from God." Notice righteousness. Christ has become righteousness to us from God. This is the good news of the gospel. Those of us that are unrighteous, which is all humanity, have by faith become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, according to what we read about in Corinthians as well. For God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. What does that mean? That means God the Son came and lived according to the perfect standard of God, fulfilled all the law, never sinned, always walking in true obedience to the father. He fulfills every aspect of the law and then he goes as the lamb of God to be the sacrificial offering and the blood atonement for all sin for mankind. And what does he do? God places now the sins of all humanity. Your sin and my sin. We can't comprehend this. But it was placed upon the lamb of God, Jesus Christ. Every sin you've ever committed, every sin you ever will commit was placed upon Jesus Christ. And God crushed the son of God, the lamb of God, because of your sin and because of my sin. And the wages of our sin was death. And God, the eternal son, came and gave his life and died and was crushed and was broken for our sin in order that by faith in him, we could receive his imputed righteousness to be placed on us as we've been united with him by faith. Therefore, now as a follower and a believer and a born-again Christian in Jesus Christ, I am no longer guilty of the sin that I have committed, but now I stand in the presence of God before God as a child of God in righteousness because Jesus Christ is my righteousness. This is the good news of the gospel. This is the glorious good news. And so Paul tells them that because of the father and his sending the son and the work of atonement by the son and the faith they've placed in Jesus, not only has he become the wisdom of God, but he's become the righteousness of God and sanctification and the redemption. So that it is written, "Let all who boast boast in one thing." Well, who we going to boast in? Jesus Christ the Lord. This is the glorious gospel message that we share. This is the message that these Corinthians were to take in to the dark city of Corinth and the surrounding area. This is the message that every Christian before God is accountable to share as we go into this dark world that we're living in. And we share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Now, there's a difference in belief and faith. And we're going to get into this later. Although they come from the same root word in Greek, belief is not the same as faith, but belief can lead to faith, but faith when it's acted out, it brings about something. And we don't have faith in faith, Christian. We have faith in an object, in a person who is the Lord Jesus Christ. And here's the thing. If you read the message of the gospels and you find out the parables that Jesus spoke about the kingdom, he'll say the kingdom of God is like a man who found a great pearl of great price. And what did he do when he found this great treasure? He went and sold all that he had and he went and bought land that he could bury the treasure in. In other words, what does that show you? There's more than belief. There is an actual faith that is demonstrated that this man placed his full trust upon Christ. Full trust. You can have faith and never demonstrate true true trust in Jesus Christ. When he when he demonstrated true genuine faith which started in belief moving to faith, what did he do? He he left the old life behind because he put himself solely upon Jesus Christ and he clung to Christ because Christ he knew was the only hope that he had and Christ was like the great treasure the pearl of great price. He sold all that he had and he purchased this for himself. See a lot of people believe oh I believe in Jesus. Well, did that move you to put full trust and faith in him and be born again? Did that happen or do you simply like the demons believe in Jesus Christ? There's a difference. And we'll get into that in more detail. But here, I want to show you this as Paul goes through here. He's trying to help them understand what is what what what has happened. We talked about that last week. What does it mean to really be born again and be in Christ? What does it mean to all this stuff? And now he's going to deal with their conduct because man, some of the things going on in Corinth were just like, you got to be kidding me. But let me tell you, as a pastor, it's no different than it is in our time. It's no different. It's just the same. Different people still the same things. And so, look at what he says here. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, he says, "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom?" He says, "Don't be deceived. There is a possibility of deception and we're living in that great deception now. Oh, we're living in a deceptive time. He says neither. Now, he's going to go through a list here. Okay? And now what he's going to do is because so many people measure their righteousness by the culture or the people around them as being better than them or maybe not quite as good, they measure by the wrong standard. Paul is going to do this for the people in Corinth. They might say, "Yeah, I understand that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom, but I'm not an unrighteous person." Why? Because, man, if you look at what's going on in Corinth, I'm a pretty good guy. So, he's going to define for them, not a full list, but he's going to give them an example of what unrighteous people do. They should know this because they did these things before they came to Christ. But he's going to go ahead and lay it out. Look what he does. He says, ' Don't be deceived because neither the sexually immoral. In all of Paul's letters, you're going to find out when he addresses these things, he starts with sexual immorality. Why? Because it happens to be one of the most pro pro prolific sins of the unrighteous. It's the twisting of God's gift in sex, in marriage, in confinement of a man and woman, in covenant with one another. understanding that our marriages are a picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ, his covenant with us. And he takes the role of a man, we the bride. He dies for us. We submit to him. It's this beautiful picture of the gospel. And he's saying this about sexual immorality. Some of you say, "Well, uh, I'm not having an adulterous relationship." Well, let's go through this. The word sexual immorality is the word porna. It's where we get the word porn from, and it means the selling off of any sexual purity. It would be viewing it. It would be it would be anything to be involved in that. So it's a big encompassing word. Why did Paul do that? Because people have a tendency to cherrypick and say, "Well, at least I'm not that." He says, "Sexual immorality." And then he moves on. He says, "Nor idolators." So idolatry was a big thing going on in Corinth. And he says, "Okay, let's give you just a little rundown on a few things that would be

considered the unrighteous and how they live." He moves on and he says, "Adulterers." We know what adultery is. It's married people going outside the covenant of marriage and having a sexual relationship outside of marriage. Paul says that's what the unrighteous do. That's not what the righteous do. He's giving them these standards to kind of see, okay, now let's figure out what unrighteousness really looks like. He says, "Nor men who practice homosexuality." This includes and encompasses all forms of sexual uh behavior in the homosexual lifestyle, whether it's lesbianism or homosexuality. He goes, "This is not what righteous people do. This is how the unrighteous actually live. This is it. It's just a further twisting of God's perfect gift in this beautiful thing he's given a husband and a wife in the confines of this marriage covenant with one another." Paul says that's that's that's what the unrighteous do. It was it's nothing new under the sun, folks. I mean, if you read about these things in Corinth, you read about them in our local papers, in our communities, it's it's no different. Times have not changed. We haven't evolved. Uh, this is where we are. It's where they were. It's where we are. This is mankind. This is what people do that don't know Christ. And notice he says this. He moves on and says, "Nor thieves." He's going to keep moving down the list here. Nor greedy. those people that are all about gain and money and they're cheating people and all the stuff going on because their focus is on greed. It doesn't just have to be money. It could be power. It could be a lot of things where it drives them and they're greedy in their own mind in the way that they do what they do. He says nor drunkards nor revilers or if you will uh nor swindlers. He says these types of people will not inherit the kingdom of God. He says, "I'm trying to help you understand what unrighteousness looks like." And then notice what Paul says. He says, "You all should know this because he says, "And such were some of you." In other words, the people of Corinth, if you just sat them down and they were to raise their hands, saying, "Which one of these was I a part of?" The whole entire church would raise their hands according to something that they were involved in indulging in in the passions of their flesh and all of that which is normal for people who do not know Christ. It's he says such were some of you. He uses the past tense word though by the way. Did you notice that? He says you were that. But that's not who you are to be now. Why? Now he's going to go into the beauty the beautiful thing that has happened to them. And it's really a picture of what happens when we have come to faith in Christ and are born again. Notice what he says. He says, "And such were some of you." And then he moves into but you were washed. You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the spirit of our God. That's the Holy Spirit. So Paul is taking them through the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom. Don't you know that? Don't be deceived. Let me give you a listing of what unrighteousness looks like. He goes they will not inherit the kingdom. And then he moves on and says, "Here's the thing. That's what you all once were. That's what we all once were." He says, "But that's not who you are anymore." Why? Because you were washed. He says, "You were sanctified. You were justified in the name of Christ Jesus and by the spirit of our God." So Paul here two times talks about the fact that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Now I know that goes against what a lot of what you hear in in especially in this southern gospel presentation. Um we have to be very careful about how we share the gospel or we preach the gospel. Why? Because you don't want to give a half gospel. You want to preach the full counsel if you were if you're preaching or teaching. If you're sharing the gospel, you want to share the truth of the gospel. And he says here the word unrighteous simply means to be wicked. It is in violation of God's standards not the standards of our culture or people. It is describes uh those that are be are found guilty in God's court of law. Um it is a binding legal infraction against God's law which calls for divine retribution for disrespecting true justice. And so that's what the word unrighteous means. These are people that are guilty because they've broken the law of God, the standard of God's righteousness. We know that all of us have broken that standard. Everyone has. That's why the

gospel is so great and so good. And Paul says, "The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom." Now, the word inherit here, it means to be an heir. That's h e i r. Hair. Heir. Not a hair on your head, but an heir. Okay? It's to be an heir or it's to receive an inheritance. And it is the act of receiving what God has set aside for his own people. This verb appears appears in context that speak of legal right as in a last will, a covenant privilege as a son or a daughter. And in esqeu esqueological reward, that is the new creation, the new heavens and the new earth. It's speaking of so many different things as we're going to learn about as we get into what is the kingdom of God. But every time we see this, it is tied to our inheritance being connected to Jesus Christ himself. And that is a believer's relationship to him. Paul says for all of us who are in Christ Jesus, we are going to what? Inherit something. We are heirs of something. It's coming. And what is that? We are going to be heirs of the kingdom of God. This is an incredible thing. Many of us probably don't even know what all that even encompasses, but we're going to learn about that in the coming weeks. And so, the unrighteous will not inherit it. This concept of, well, everybody goes to heaven. You might as well throw that out. That's not going to happen. Only those who have been born again by regeneration of the spirit through faith in Jesus Christ will receive everlasting life and become heirs of the kingdom of God. That is what scripture teaches. So it's important to know these things because you meet people all the time that have a different understanding of this, but you take them to the word of God and you can show them these things. So, in Galatians 5:19-24, now we're going to begin to look at several scriptures today to work our way through this. We have a lot to look at, but I want you to see these things. This isn't the only time Paul talks about this. This is important that we we gain understanding to these things. Galatians 5:19-24. I encourage you, please, to bring your Bibles as we study these things together. I want you to be able to see them with your own eyes. Paul reiterates these same things to the Galatian church as he writes a letter to them also. Um, and it's important that we understand this. He says in verse 19-24 of chapter 5 in Galatians, Paul writes, "Now the works of the flesh are evident. This is the the the carnal man, the the old man, if you will. This is the works of the flesh. We shouldn't be shocked by a society that is off its rails in morality. Shouldn't be shocked by it." Why? because they don't know God. And when our society moves away from those things and gets further detached from the things that are least standards that God has set, it becomes more morally depraved. And these last days are going to be so morally depraved that scripture says that the love of most will grow cold because of the increase in wickedness. This thing is not going to get better and better and better. It's actually doing exactly what everything does. It falls apart. It's going to get worse and worse and worse before the day of the Lord. But we are people of God to be set apart unto God for a great purpose in this world. Galatians 5 says, "The works of the flesh are evident." Starts here with the first one again. sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, immity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. Paul says, that's what are of the flesh. He says, I warn you as I warned you before that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom. This is the way in which they're living their life. In other words, there's no been no been no change. There's no been there's been no new birth or regeneration and a new man or a new woman has been born again in Jesus Christ. It's still living the same way they always lived. Making a profession saying they believe but no change in anything in life. Not that we change everything the moment we come to believe. No. But something dynamic has truly happened. We have been set apart unto God. We've been born again of the spirit. We have been given the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. And we may not understand all of these things that are that are um opposing to God and affront to him. But as the Holy Spirit works in you, you'll feel the conviction of those things and you'll know that to be the case. And then when you get in his word, you'll begin to say, "Oh, God, this is not what we do as Christians. We don't live this way

anymore. It's why we need to preach the Bible and stop talking about how people can learn more about psychology and philosophy through preaching. We need to quit this. It's all about us teaching the word of God so we become men and women who know the truth so we're not deceived like so many. And he says, um, I warn you as I warned you before. Those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. And then he says, but the fruit of the spirit, we've been born again of the spirit, he says, is what? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Ephesians chapter 5. If you would turn with me there, just go right in your Bible and you'll find it immediately. Ephesians chapter 5. We're going to look at 1-12. And I'm just demonstrating to you that this isn't the only time the Apostle Paul warns different churches or people about these things. Why? Because Paul is he cares greatly about the Christians conduct because of what it does and how it affects not only their life before God because they're grieving the spirit of God. They're quenching the spirit of God. And you cannot live this life that you have been given in Christ Jesus for God's glory without the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through your life. You can't do it. So when you're living with a tank on empty in regards to the spirit of God working inside you, listen, you live in a defeated state. You have no joy. There's so many things that are going on. So here's why Paul deals so much with the conduct. Not just to mention that we really diminish our testimony. Um or or or we really put a a blow out the light of Christ in our community when we live this way because we're supposed to be set apart. We're supposed to be different as we're going to see now 1 through 12. Let's read through this quickly. Therefore, be imitators of God. Who are we supposed to imitate? God. How do we find that out? Well, how do we know how to live? How does God what does he read the scriptures? That's how we know. As beloved children and walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us. As a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. And then he starts right here again. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness covetousness must not even be named among you. This shouldn't even be a description of anyone who is a Christian. Paul says it shouldn't be named above among you as is proper for what? Saints. And what does that word saint mean? We learned about it two weeks ago or maybe last week. It literally means to be like a building set apart as holy like the temple was in Jerusalem. And of all the temples, all the buildings in Jerusalem, there was one building in all of Jerusalem that everybody revered as holy. It was a holy place. And it means to be like the temple in a city that is set apart as sacred and holy. And then we learned that the temple was destroyed as Jesus said it would be. Why? Because God doesn't dwell in buildings built by man. And because the spirit of God was not even dwelling in the temple of Jerusalem in Christ's day, because Kabad had happened and God had left the temple because of the wickedness of the people of Israel. He was not even there. And yet they're still going through the rituals of all the sacrifices and everything going on. That's why the temple curtain was rent when Jesus Christ died in order that people could see that he now the great high priest had entered through the great curtain into the very presence of God. And no more lambs needed to be sacrificed. Nor the blood of lambs, bulls, or goats to be sprinkled on anything in the Holy of Holies. Because it had been exposed and blown open. Why? Because the lamb of God had come and his blood had been slain. And his blood is the blood that purifies us from all unrighteousness and washes us whiter than snow. And so here's here's the point of what we're seeing here. And then Paul goes on here as we're going to read again and have read in next week or in the week or two is he says, "Let me tell you something. You now are a temple of the Holy Spirit. God's spirit dwells in you." And so he says,

As a temple of God, that's what we are. We are God's temple. God has come and dwelt within every believer.

"You are saints. You are set apart as holy to God. And you need to be like the temple in Jerusalem. It needs to be something that's sacred where you would never desecrate the temple of God in Jerusalem and live. Don't desecrate the temple that you have as your body where the Holy Spirit lives in. Don't do that because God doesn't dwell in buildings made by man. He dwells in the hearts of men and women who have been born again by the spirit by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ. And this is this is what he's trying to teach here. These people need to know. Oh, you mean I'm a temple of the Holy Spirit? Metaphorically, you are. But even more than that, factually you are. Why? Because God's very spirit. He comes and lives inside of everyone who's been born again. Think about that."

He says, "For uh may you be sure that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, who is covetous, that is an idolator, uh has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ in God. Let no one deceive you with empty words. For because of these things, the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partakers with them. For at one time you were darkness."

Notice what he says. But now you are light in the Lord. Walk, that means live as what? Children of the light. For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. And try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part, he says, in the fruit unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. That is Paul's exhortation to these believers in Ephesians.

Here, look at Colossians chapter 3 1-10. And oh, we have got so many we got so far to go this morning. I get frustrated because I can't get there and I want to get there because there's so much to so much so good here. Colossians 3 1-10 he says if then you have been raised with Christ which we have been seated with Christ already in heavenly places haven't happened physically but it has been because we've been united with Christ Jesus and wherever Christ is we're there it's as good as it's already happened seek the things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God he says set your minds on things that are above not on things that are of earth. For you have died and your life is hidden. Think about this. Not physically, but metaphorically. When you were joined with Christ, you were buried with him in baptism and then you were raised like he was victoriously to live and walk in newness of life because you were born again. He says, listen, you've died and now your life, think about it, it is hidden with, notice the the con the connecting words. It's either in or through or with. It's all tied to Jesus Christ. And that is by faith in Christ. That is that trusting in that is putting all things in Christ. It's taking every chip you have and sliding it to Jesus. It is it is everything to Christ and we've been in him. It's through him. It's by him. It's for him and it's with him. And this is what Paul is making. Our life is hidden with Christ in God. He says when Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with him in glory.

So what does Paul say then there? He says, "Put to death." Therefore, what is earthly in you? And here he goes again. Here's the listing. He throws a few more out there. What does he start with? Sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. And notice he says it again. On account of these things, the wrath of God is coming. In these you two once walked. Past tense. Past tense. It's how you used to live, man. In this, you two once walked when you were living in them.

But now Paul says, and the reason he's telling them this because they need to know it. So they stop living like they still live in the old man. Christians that don't know these things, they need to know. And Paul says, "But now you must put them all away." What are those things? He

adds some more. Anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk from your mouth. He says, 'Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with all of its practices. And what have you done? He's like, think about it this way. Like you've put on a new self which is being renewed in the knowledge after the image of its creator. And who is the image of the creator in which we are to live? The new man, Jesus Christ. He is the author, the founder of our faith. We are his workmanship. This is important.

Now grace is so good that grace could be misunderstood and grace can even be perverted. People say oh no grace if it's true grace could never be perverted. Oh it is and it's misused a lot. In fact Awtoer talks about antinomianism here speaking of the creed. And I want to talk to you just momentarily about antinomianism. Antin-omianism um is easily stated according to Awtoer that we understand this is this is this is the fact of what we know as Christians that we are saved by faith alone. Amen. We love that we're justified by faith not works. Thank you Lord that we're not. And then antinomianism um would say and that we know that works have no place in salvation. And then they would say, antinomianism would say though that conduct is a work. You see the what they're saying here? They say, "Oh, we believe that you're saved by faith alone and works have no place in salvation." But they say conduct in their mind is absolutely a work. And so therefore, conduct does not matter. It doesn't matter how you live because you're justified before God by faith. But you are saved according to Ephesians chapter 2. You are saved by grace through faith in Christ, not by works, but you're saved unto good works. Why is that? Because the natural outcome of someone who's been born again will be these things. And so antinomianism has come in. It was in the early church innosticism. Gnostics believe in dualism. Dualism is this. The flesh that we have is wicked and it's evil. But every man and every woman has a spirit. And the spirit is is right and it's good and it's pure. So people who are gnostics or they believe in this dualism. And here's what they teach. It doesn't even really matter what you do in the flesh, how sensual you want to be, whatever you want to do, however you want to live, you just go and do it. Why? Because the spirit of a man is so pure and so good. And the things you do in the body don't even matter. And here's a way in which grace is preached sometimes that you are saved by grace and they take it to the antonyomian view to where they say and it doesn't matter anything about your conduct. If it didn't matter about your conduct, why does Paul constantly write about the believer's conduct? It matters greatly.

And then we get into these views. This view that has become prominent today. It is this teaching that there's a difference between actually entering the kingdom and inheriting the kingdom. But that's pretty convenient and it goes right along with this that people are simply saved with just a mental ascent about who God is and they believe in Jesus, but they don't have to change one thing in their life to demonstrate that they've been born again. But that's the thing. They're in the kingdom, but they don't inherit the kingdom because they're not living according to way that God would have them live. Well, we're going to learn more about that as well. Because if you have Christ, you have inheritance. Do you understand that? According to scripture, if you have Jesus and you're in Jesus, you become an heir of Christ Jesus through the faith that we have placed in him. You inherit the kingdom, man. You inherit it. Praise God for that. Yes. When you become a child of God, you become an heir. That's what scripture says. You receive the inheritance that is ours in Christ Jesus. You don't have to divide things out. That's not how this works. You're a good kid and you're a bad kid. The good kid gets everything. The bad kid gets nothing. It's not how that this works. You either get all of Jesus or you don't have him. And he is going to give you his incredible gift of salvation. And you also receive the entire inheritance that he has offered for all who believe in him by faith. And this is

something that is promised by God. And you've been sealed by the Holy Spirit who is a guarantee until the day you receive the fullness of the inheritance that has been given to you in Christ.

So let's move on from here. So there's just these warnings because sometimes these people need to know. If you're a Christian here today and you're living in these ways, this is a warning to you. Listen, you need to live as if you've been born again. If you truly have been born again, you need to what? Crucify the flesh. We have to do this all the time. This is not an easy thing to do. Why? Because when you're born again, you don't lose the old man. The old flesh is still there. And what does the flesh want to do? We read about it. All the sensual things. It's selfish by nature. All of those things are there, but you've been born again by the spirit and a new man and a new woman has been created in Christ Jesus. And what do the two do? They wage war against the other. That's why this warning that we feel going on all the time. It's a battle that we contend with. But we are to crucify that. It's going to rise up. It's going to want you to lust. It's going to want you to be greedy. It's going to do all those things. But the new man in Christ by the Holy Spirit is saying the opposite. And there's this warning that goes on. And Paul says this, why we got to live by the spirit, not by the flesh, because the ways of the flesh lead to death, but the things of the spirit lead to righteousness. That's what Paul's getting at when he writes these things. Ephesians chapter 4:17- 24.

Wow. Let's look at just a few more and then we really going to have to get going here. You're going to see this here. Paul's going to say it again here. Here's another another example of this. Now, this I say in verse 17- 24, Paul says, "This I say and testify in the Lord that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do." Why is he telling them this? because it's obvious that they either don't know or they don't understand and they're not living that way. So Paul has to constantly remind them of these things and inform them of this reality. If the light switch just came on at regeneration and you never sinned again, Paul wouldn't need to write this. But that's not how this deal works. Yes, we become born again, but there's a process. We have been sanctified, set apart as holy, sacred to God, but there's a process of sanctification that we all go through. And everybody goes through it in a different speed, in a different way. And so that process is God conforming us into the image of his son. That's what God is doing through sanctification. You're in a tough marriage. Guess what? God didn't create marriage so that you could just be happy. God uses marriage to be a great way in God's sanctification process for you. Why is that? Because you learn how utterly selfish you are. You learn all these things about yourself as you have to sacrifice and submit to another. And so you learn all these things. And what is God doing through marriage? Yes, marriage will bring joy and happiness, but it's not all about your happiness. And what do people want to do when they're not happy in marriage? They all WANT TO BAIL OUT of it and get gone. No. God uses marriage to bring about our sanctification. How do we learn to love when we're not loved? How do we learn to forgive when someone wrongs us? How do we learn to offer grace and mercy and all of the things that are the fruits of the spirit? How do we learn to have these things? Well, we learn them through this process of sanctification. And God will do that. God's doing that in your life right now. He's doing it in many ways. He says, "Now I testify in the Lord that you must no longer walk as Gentiles do in the futility of their minds." Why? Because we have the mind of Christ. We don't have a futile mind anymore. They are darkened in their understanding. Well, sure they are. That's why you need to share the light of Christ's gospel to them. They're darkened in their understanding. They are alienated, think about this, from the life of God because of their ignorance that is in them due to the hardness of their hearts. They become callous and they have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is

not the way that you learned Christ. Paul tells these Ephesians, "That's not how you've come to know Jesus." assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him as the truth is in Jesus to do what? To put off your old self which is which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds. And here he is again. He's like taking off an old garment, putting on a new one. And he says this, "And put on the new self created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4 3-8. You're going to have to go write in your Bibles to find it. We may be here another few weeks. I'm telling you, Christian, this stuff matters so much. In 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 3-8, Paul says, "For this is the will of God, your sanctification." That is the process. We already have been sanctified as being set apart sacred and holy to God. That happened when we believed in had faith in Christ. This is what happened to us. But there's a process of of being conformed now because we got to we got to this is part of the process. This is the war and the battle that wages within you that you are dealing with saying no to the flesh and yes to the spirit of God. And he says this that you abstain from sexual immorality that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor not in the passions of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God. Christians, this is not how we live. Why is that? That no one transgress or wrong his brother in this matter. See, here's a way in which when we're living like Gentiles do, we're wronging them. Why? Because we're we're we're saying we're doing the things that they're doing and saying that we're something else. There's a something wrong going on here when we do that. Because the Lord is an avenger in all these things as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but for what? You don't hear much about this word anymore, but for holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, Paul says, disregards not man, but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

As newborn followers of Christ, these Corinthians were to leave their life of sin, not lead a life of sin. They were to leave it, not lead it. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, as we go down through this list, we're going to see here that Paul didn't just pull these these things from thin air. He didn't do that. When he gives the the the different types of unrighteous conduct, Paul just didn't do pie in the sky here. No, he didn't. You know what Paul did? He went back to the law of God. What did he do? Paul goes back to Leviticus chapter 18. Paul was a Pharisee. Paul would have had all the first five books, the Pentateuch. He'd have had them all memorized. That's what Pharisees had given himself to memorizing the first five books. Can you imagine that? Fully memorized. What's Paul doing? He's pulling this from memory. And what is he going to share with them? The word of God. That's what Paul's doing. He's sharing with them the word of God. So, we're going to look at this together.

Um, now you remember in our study of two weeks ago in 1 Corinthians chapter 1:2 it says to the church of God that is in Corinth to those sanctified in Christ Jesus called to be saints together with those in every place called call upon the name of our Lord both their Lord and ours. I talked about this earlier. The word saint means literally to be holy uh to the Lord to be set apart to be different. In fact if you could mark these words down in your mind. What does it mean to be a saint? You're not a saint because the church saints you. Like the Roman Catholic Church has all these saints. No. Scripture says that every Christian is a saint. We are the sainthood of believers. That's what we are. We don't just saint somebody and give them a name and put them up on a pillar and all those. No, that's not what we do. Every Christian is a saint according to scripture. And the word saint here literally means to be different, distinguished, and distinct from all the others. That would be the unbelieving world. So

Christian, think about it this way. Because you're special to the Lord and you are in Christ Jesus, you're a saint. You've been you've been called a saint, called to be saints with all the others, Paul says, who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. And that means that you are to be different from the unbelieving world. You are to be distinguished from those that do not know Christ. And you are to be distinctly different from all those outside of Christ. Not just like them. Not just doing everything they're doing. We're to be different and distinct and distinguished from those. Why? Because you are holy to the Lord. You are sacred and you've been set apart unto God for his purpose and for his work and for his glory. And so in Deuteronomy 14 two, you'll see that this has been true of God's people throughout history. Let me read it to you. Deuteronomy 14:2 says, "For you are a people holy to the Lord." This is going back in the Old Testament speaking about the nation of Israel. God calling for himself a people. And he did that all the way back from Abraham bringing them all the way through. He says, "Holy to the Lord your God, and the Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession out of all the people who are on the face of the earth." Leviticus 20:26 says, "You shall be holy to me, for I the Lord am holy and have separated you from the people that you should be mine."

And then 1 Peter 2 uh 1 2 9-12. Let me let me finish that section with this verse verses uh 1 Peter 29-12. You might write that down. I know I'm going quickly, but I'm trying to get somewhere here before we run out of time. But you are a chosen race. Peter says, speaking of those who are in Christ, we are the church. We're a chosen race. We are a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession. Where is he getting that out of what we just read? And he's he's saying that the body of believers, the church, this is who we are. That you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people. Once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. He says, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." Do they not? They do. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles. That would be all the unbelieving. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles. honorable. Why? So that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of his visitation. Either in the visitation of the calling, when the gospel goes out, or one day when they stand before God and they can look back and they can see, hey, there will be this this um speaking of of of of this lifestyle conduct that was lived out before them. It matters how we live.

Now, let's go through the list here of what he says. He's going to begin with sexual immorality. Go with me to Leviticus chapter 18, and we're going to look at verses 1-7. Now, we are not under the law, but by no means does the law not have purpose for us as Christians. Absolutely it does. It helps us know how we are to live now that we have come to know Christ and been consecrated and set apart as the people of God. is God gave this to the people of God. They couldn't keep it. They all failed in all ways. Jesus Christ came and did what the law could not do. Thank God for that. But here we're going to go. Leviticus chapter 18 really covers all kinds of sexual immorality. And we're not going to cover all that today because a lot of it is something that we don't want to say with children present. But it still happens in our time. Nothing new is under the sun. Let's read this. So Paul is going to go back to Leviticus and he's going to explain to them that guess what? Just like God's people in the Old Testament were to be set apart, holy unto God, sacred, different, distinguished in in every way from the rest of the people around them, so are you. And Paul says, "This is what unrighteousness looks like." He takes them back to Leviticus and he's going to take them through all of these things that he said. In Leviticus 18:1-7, he says, "And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, speak to the people

of Israel and say to them, I am the Lord your God. You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt." We have come out of Egypt. Amen. Thank God for that. Where you lived, we were enslaved to Egypt, just like the the Israelites were at one time, to Pharaoh. We also were enslaved to Satan uh and the principalities and all that stuff going on and the lust and passions of our of our own wickedness. That's where we once lived. But he says, "Listen, we're no longer uh in Egypt." He says, "Do not do as they do in Egypt where you lived. And you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan to which I'm bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules. And you shall keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules. If a person does them, he shall live by them. I am the Lord. None of you shall approach any one of his close relatives to uncover their nakedness. I am the Lord. You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father, which would be speaking here, which is the nakedness of your mother. She is your mother. You shall not uncover her nakedness. Well, do you remember what Paul talked about earlier already in the first Corinthians when he mentions that there's a sin among you that even the pagans in Corinth don't approve of? That one of the members of this church actually had his father's wife. And where did Paul address this from? Right here out of Leviticus chapter 18. You shall not have your father's wife. Period. That's what this man was doing. Paul called him out on it. Told the church what they should do about it. And that's what he did. That was back in 1 Corinthians chapter 5:1.

Now, um, in Leviticus 18:8, all this stuff is in through here. It's all talking about the the sexual immorality. And I'm not going to go through it all. If you want to read it, go read it. But it talks about everything you can think of. It talks fornication, idolatry, all of it's there. It's all right there. It covers sexual immorality. This is where Paul speaks from and where he gets the truth from from the word of God that he's giving these people about what the unrighteous do and that they were to be set apart from that, not live in that way, be called out from that because they're not under the slavery of sin anymore. It has no power over them. They've been set free from the power of sin unto God. And now they're to offer themselves as what? As as instruments to righteousness. That's what they were to do. And so, let's move down through here. Leviticus chapter 8. Um, we already talked about that.

Um, now he gets into idolatry is which is the next one. Where does Paul go? He goes to Leviticus chapter 19:4. And this is what it says. Do not turn to idols or to make yourselves any gods of cast metal. I am the Lord your God. Idolatry was forbidden. In fact, if you read in scripture, they weren't even supposed to make an image of anything anything whatsoever. So, anytime you have a religious system that makes all kinds of images that they venerate and they set up, they're already breaking this command. But those some of those like the Roman Catholic Church even even um in their own catechism doesn't they don't even have the second commandment in there. They removed it. Why? Because when it says you shall not make any graven image for yourself and all the stuff it says, it's removed because the church has so many venerated relics. They sell them all over. I've been to the Vatican. When you go in there and you see they have these shops everywhere and what are they selling? Statues of Mary, statues of this saint. They have all these things and people are walking around holding all these things. Well, what are they? They're simply images of idolatry. Whether it's even a picture, you don't even need a picture of Christ. Why? Have you seen him? Has the artist who painted Jesus really seen Jesus? He's been gone for 2,000 years nearly. So when you have these things that we set up, if you're not careful, they can become idolatrous. And this is what Paul's talking about, idolatry. There's many forms of idolatry, but he goes to Leviticus 19:4.

Now, idol idolatry, we can find that in Leviticus 18:19, which we already said that's the kind of the sexually immoral chapter there in Leviticus 18:19. You shall not approach a woman to uncover her nakedness while she is in Nope, don't go there. Sorry, that's not the one you need. You can look at that one later. I'm not going to I'm not going to say that this morning. You can look that up later. Okay. Yes. Uh let's go to Leviticus 18:22. Nor men who practice homosexuality. You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It's an abomination. So he was addressing those that were involved in sexual immorality as far as homosexuality goes. Nor thieves. He moves on to Leviticus 19:11. You shall not steal. You shall not deal falsely with with uh falsely. You shall not lie to another. So, we're seeing both of these here.

Then we have the greedy in Leviticus chapter 19 9-10. When when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to the edges. Neither shall you gather the gleanings from your harvest, and you shall not strip the vineyard bear, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes from your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner. I am the Lord your God. In other words, don't be greedy. I'll take care of you. Leave something on the edges for someone who doesn't have so much. Nor drunkards. Leviticus 10 8-9. And the Lord spoke to Aaron saying, "Drink no wine, nor strong drink. You or your sons with you when you go into the tent of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations." And you can study that story there and find out what happened to those guys. Nor revilers. Leviticus 19:16. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor. I am the Lord, nor swindlers. Leviticus 19:13. You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until morning. In other words, if you owe somebody something to pay him, pay him. Uh if he works for you. Um don't be a swindler.

And then he says, "Such were some of you." And then we get into this. But you were washed. The word washed here re refers to an entire washing. It is the complete removal of sin and its debt. That's what this Greek word apo apollo I think it's apollo is how you pronounce it. And it means to have completely have your sins completely washed away. And also the debt of that sin is completely gone. Now if you've come to know Christ, this is what has happened to you. Paul says this about them. The unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom. Such were some of you. And then he says, "But you were washed." In other words, all of your sin has been completely washed away. Is no longer even there. God through Christ Jesus has completely removed all of your sin debt in full. That's good news, is it not? That had to be great news for these Corinthian believers. It's true of what has happened to them in Jesus Christ. They weren't all living like it. That's why Paul's writing to them, don't do this because you were washed. All of your sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus. They've all been forgiven. The debt that you had that's been surmountable. It's all gone. It's all been washed away. It's been paid for. In Hebrews 9:22, it says, "Indeed, under the law, almost everything is purified with blood. And without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins." And we know that Jesus Christ's blood has washed away all of our sins in 1 John 1:7. Write them down. I'm going to go quickly. But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another. And the blood of Jesus his son cleanses us from some sins. All sins. Is that not good? All sin. Titus 3:5-7. He saved us not because of the works done by us. You can't merit God's righteousness by works. It says the works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our savior, so that being justified by grace, we might become hes according to the hope of eternal life. So, we were washed by regeneration by the Holy Spirit through the blood of Jesus Christ, who has washed away every single one of your sins

and all the debt that came with it. It was all placed on Christ Jesus. God smashed him, crushed him, and he bore your sin in order that you could be set free from all of that and be considered righteous before God by his imputed righteousness. Isn't this good news, dude? I don't know about you, but man, this this stuff just it revs my motor, I guess you could say. It's good stuff. This is what the the good news is all about. In Hebrews 10:22 says, "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." No doubt these believers here, this is true of what has happened to them. They were washed by the blood of the lamb. This is what's happened to you, Christian. You have been washed. All of your sin has been covered by the blood of the lamb who was slain before the foundation of the world. This is the true reality of who you are. And the frustrating part for us is this. We don't always live like this reality is true. You're going to have your flesh Christian. Jesus understands all of these things. Scripture says that we don't have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weakness. But we have one who in every way has been tempted just as we are yet without sin. Our high priest Jesus Christ understands. In other words, God came, took upon flesh, and he came and experienced what it was to have dealt with these kinds of things temptationwise. And he is at the right hand of the father. He knows these things to be true. But he died for you in order that you could be made right before God the Father and you could be set right, washed clean from all of our sin and that you would be justified. That means just as if you never sinned, you stand before God because of your faith in Jesus Christ. This is the reality where these believers were really in and yet they weren't living as if this was a reality in which they were experiencing. This is why it matters. This is what we need to know because knowledge has a way to transform the way in which we think and how we live. Knowing these things, man, it it changes the way you look at grace. It changes the way you look at salvation. It'll change the way you even view your sin to the point that you detest it. Why? Because of what Christ did in order to redeem you. Aren't you thankful today that you've been washed? Amen.

We're going to have to end there for the sake of time. So maybe some of you might come back next week. It's kind of long today. Some of you here are struggling with some of these things. It's a reality. But this knowledge is to help you understand this is not how you are to live. You've been given the Holy Spirit who gives us power. What power have we been given? We now have the power through the spirit of God to say no to sin. You do have that power. You don't have to succumb to it. Why? Because you're not a slave to it anymore. You're not a slave. You've been set free. And now we are a slave unto God, unto righteousness. That's what we've become. Except righteous things bring what? Life. You're a slave to life. And once you were a slave to death. This is the glorious gospel, Christian. If you're struggling with these things and you are a true born again believer in Jesus Christ, I encourage you to spend time and repent of these things before your Lord. And here's the good news. Jesus Christ, the son of God, is at the right hand of the father. Scripture tells us in Romans 8, "And he is interceding on behalf of you." You need to know that. And then a little down further in chapter 8, it says, "And the Holy Spirit of God, he is praying on your behalf the will of God to be done in your life."

So you have God the Father, you have God the Son, and you have God the Holy Spirit all together working for your good. That is the reality of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. You are an heir of the kingdom who has come spiritually but is coming physically one day. And yes, you are in battle right now. You're fighting against the flesh and you're waging war against the old man. You wage war against the principalities and the powers of this dark place. You're waging war against all that is going on in this world. But here's the thing. You have been empowered to live in such a way that you simply stand in the strength of the Lord

and in his might and you stand firm in the strength of the Lord and God will sustain you to the very end. And so if you're struggling with any of these things, it's because you're giving way to the flesh and you've been given the power to say no and to live for righteousness. And this is the whole dichotomy of what you're struggling with. And many of you don't know that you don't want to live like Gentiles. You've you maybe some of you have heard this today and it's been so convicting you wanted to get up out of your chair and you wanted to leave this place. That's because the Holy Spirit is convicting you. And if he's doing that, that's because you belong to him or he's calling you to salvation. One of the two. And if God the spirit is calling you and drawing you to salvation this day, do you not understand that this is the day of salvation for you? This is the most important truth that has ever been received by you. If God is calling you, do not say no. Do don't don't turn away from him. Say yes to him. Don't just believe, yeah, Jesus, I believe in him. Let that belief move to faith where you cast yourself upon Jesus. He's the only buoy in the ocean that can spare you from sure death. That's what it's like on a vast ocean. One piece of wood is floating that will get you to safety and survival. You're not going to swim away from it. You're going to paddle as fast as you can to it. And Jesus Christ, he is the ark of safety. And he's the only one by which you can be reconciled to God here.

If you're living in a way as a Christian and you're saying, "Man, my my conduct is not in line. My mouth is a cesspool. I can't stop cussing. I'm always saying all this garbage. I'm telling filthy jokes when I'm at work. I I speak harshly to my wife." All the stuff. You can just go down the list. Listen, today you can repent of that. Repent of that. You know what the church needs? Repentance, man. It's why we're so weak in the church. Repentance. And you don't have the power of spirit of God living in you. You don't have a desire to tell people at work that Jesus saves. Why? Cuz you're living in a life that has no power. And yet you've been brought from death to life, from darkness to light, from the kingdom and domain of Satan to the kingdom of the glorious son. Don't live as if you still belong there. Live as a child of God. Live as a child of God for his glory. He's coming again, Christian. He is coming again one day or you're going to meet him before he does one way or another. Live your life for his glory and for his name's sake. And don't beat yourself up today. I'm not here to condemn anyone. Why? Because the world is already condemned. If you're IN CHRIST, THERE'S NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO are in Christ Jesus. But I'm here to encourage you. If you're living in a way that brings dishonor to Christ, this is just for you to be able to repent of that, confess that sin, and be united back in fellowship with God and have that power of the Holy Spirit living in you and the joy that it brings and the peace that it brings. That's why. Why? So you can enjoy the kingdom now. That's why. It's what Paul's getting at here. You don't have to wait until the fullness of the kingdom comes. You can enjoy what it is to be a kingdom man or woman right now. So many Christians are living without the joy and the purpose and all that is part of being part of the kingdom men and women of God. But you don't have to. I don't know what God desires to do in your life. But I know this much God desires that we would live in such a way that we could give him honor and glory by the way that we live. But that we would be in close relationship to him. Why? Because you got to be today Christian. We can't do this without the spirit of God working in us with power. So, I don't know where you're living, but if you feel something today, Jesus didn't come to condemn the world, but God sent his son in order that what? The world might be saved through him. If you're a Christian today, you're not feeling condemnation. You might be feeling conviction, but conviction is the loving hand of God to draw you back into fellowship with him. It's all about reconciliation, restoration, and all that God has done for us.





## Answers to the Study Questions:

Q: How should Christians measure their righteousness?

A: Christians should not measure their righteousness by comparing themselves to others or by cultural standards. Instead, they must measure themselves against God's perfect, holy, and righteous standard. Since humanity cannot meet this standard on its own, the gospel provides the solution.

Q: What is the role of Jesus Christ in achieving righteousness before God?

A: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived a perfect, sinless life, fulfilling God's law. He then became a sacrificial offering, taking on the sins of humanity. Through faith in Him, believers receive His imputed righteousness, allowing them to be declared righteous before God.

Q: What is the difference between belief and faith as discussed in the sermon?

A: While related, belief is not the same as faith. Belief can lead to faith, but true faith is demonstrated through action and complete trust in Jesus Christ. It involves a commitment that transforms one's life, moving beyond mere intellectual assent to a full reliance on Christ, similar to the man who sold all he had for the pearl of great price.

Q: What does Paul mean by 'the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God'?

A: Paul is warning that certain behaviors and lifestyles, which are contrary to God's righteous standard, will prevent individuals from inheriting God's kingdom. He lists these behaviors to prevent deception and to guide believers toward a conduct that reflects their new identity in Christ.

Q: What does the Bible mean by 'unrighteousness'?

A: Unrighteousness, as explained in the video, refers to actions that are in violation of God's standards and law, not merely cultural norms. These are behaviors that demonstrate wickedness and result in being found guilty in God's court. Examples given include sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, theft, greed, drunkenness, and swindling.

Q: Will people who practice unrighteous acts inherit the kingdom of God?

A: According to the scripture discussed, those who practice unrighteous acts will not inherit the kingdom of God. The speaker emphasizes that this is a serious warning from the Apostle Paul, intended to guide believers away from destructive behaviors.

Q: What is the meaning of 'inheriting the kingdom of God'?

A: Inheriting the kingdom of God means to be an heir and receive an inheritance that God has set aside for His people. This is described as a covenant privilege, an eschatological reward, and is intrinsically linked to one's relationship with Jesus Christ. It is not a universal right but a gift received through faith.

Q: If believers are saved by grace, does their conduct matter?

A: Yes, a believer's conduct absolutely matters. While salvation is by grace through faith and not by works (Ephesians 2:8-9), believers are saved 'unto good works' (Ephesians 2:10). Good works are the natural and expected outcome of being born again, demonstrating the transformation that has occurred through the Holy Spirit. The video warns against antinomianism, which wrongly suggests conduct is irrelevant.

Q: What does it mean for a believer to be a 'temple of the Holy Spirit'?

A: It means that the Holy Spirit literally dwells within every believer. As such, believers are considered 'saints,' meaning they are set apart as holy to God. Their bodies are the temple of God, and they are called to live in a way that honors God and does not desecrate this sacred dwelling place.

Q: What is sanctification and how does it happen?

A: Sanctification is the ongoing process by which God conforms believers into the image of His Son. It involves being set apart as holy. This process often occurs through challenging life circumstances, such as difficult marriages, where believers learn to sacrifice, submit, love, forgive, and exercise grace, reflecting the fruits of the Spirit.

Q: Why is there a constant struggle between the flesh and the Spirit in a Christian's life?

A: When a person is born again, they receive a new spirit, but the old flesh, with its selfish desires and tendencies, remains. These two aspects wage war against each other. The flesh wants to pursue sin and leads to death, while the new man, empowered by the Holy Spirit, desires righteousness. This internal conflict is a battle that believers must actively engage in by choosing to 'crucify the flesh' and live by the Spirit.

Q: What are the 'works of the flesh' mentioned in Galatians 5?

A: The 'works of the flesh' are evident sinful behaviors that stem from the carnal nature. Galatians 5:19-21 lists them as: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and similar things. Paul warns that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Q: What does it mean to be a 'saint' in Christianity?

A: In Christian theology, being a 'saint' means being holy and set apart for God. It's not a title reserved for a few exceptional individuals but a description of every believer who has faith in Christ. Scripture indicates that all Christians are saints, distinguished from the unbelieving world.

Q: Why does the Bible list specific sins like sexual immorality and greed?

A: The Bible lists these sins to guide believers on how to live a life that is holy and set apart from the world. These prohibitions, often traced back to Old Testament laws like those in Leviticus, are not meant to condemn but to show the standard of righteousness God calls His people to, distinguishing them from those who do not know God.

Q: If my sins are washed away, why do I still struggle with temptation?

A: While salvation through Christ completely washes away sins and their debt, believers still live in a fallen world and possess a fleshly nature that wars against the spirit. This is an ongoing spiritual battle. However, Christians are empowered by the Holy Spirit and have Jesus as their High Priest, who understands their weaknesses, enabling them to resist sin.

Q: What is the role of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life regarding sin?

A: The Holy Spirit indwells believers and provides the power to resist sin and live righteously. Christians are no longer slaves to sin but have been set free to be slaves to God and righteousness. The Spirit empowers them to 'say no to the flesh' and live according to God's will.

Q: What should I do if I am struggling with sin as a Christian?

A: If you are struggling with sin, the encouragement is to repent and confess those sins to God. This act of repentance and turning back to God restores fellowship and allows the power of the Holy Spirit to work effectively in your life, bringing joy and peace. It's about restoring your relationship with God, not losing your salvation.

Q: Does the Old Testament Law still apply to Christians today?

A: While Christians are not 'under the law' in the sense of earning salvation through it, the Old Testament Law, particularly as referenced in Leviticus, serves as a guide. It helps Christians understand how to live now that they know Christ, revealing God's standards and highlighting the sin from which they have been redeemed.

Q: What does it mean to be 'justified' before God?

A: To be justified means to be declared righteous by God, 'just as if you never sinned.' This is not achieved through personal works but through faith in Jesus Christ. His righteousness is imputed to believers, making them right before God the Father.