

I'm Not What I Used to Be!

Jesus said that there are 2 categories of people in human society. The first is the kingdom of God, which Jesus brought to Earth and He is the head of it – God created the world with the intent of all humanity being in the kingdom of God. His kingdom has the power to transform lives, bring peace, joy, love and an eternal relationship with Him. The second kingdom, which is the kingdom of the god of this world, is led by Satan. In this kingdom there is physical death, spiritual death with eternal separation from God, pain, misery and sickness. Satan wants us to be permanently cancelled out of the kingdom of God. In this world of Cancel Culture, it is good to know that Jesus is not about cancelling people, but about making them all one in Christ!

When Paul wrote to the church in the city of Corinth in Greece, he addressed the issue that was causing division in the church: Christians were taking each other to court before non-Christian judges. Paul addressed the fact that these Christians were acting more like people whose lives had not been transformed by Christ than people whose lives had been transformed by Him **(1 Cor 6:9-10)**. What is mentioned in 1 Corinthians 6 is not an exhaustive list, for Paul goes on to add in Ephesians 5 and Colossians 3: obscenity, sinful talk, hurtful joking, blasphemy, evil desire, anger, malice and lying. To these, we can add the sins that Paul wrote about in his letter to the Galatians **(Galatians 5:20-21)**.

Let's break down 1 Corinthians 6:11:

- **“You were washed”** – refers to being washed by the blood of Jesus, which can cleanse from sin **(Revelation 1:5)**. God forgives us of our sin because Jesus already paid for them, all we need do is ask. His blood washes away our past and opens up our future – we've been washed clean, we're not what we used to be!
- **“You were sanctified”** – to sanctify is to set apart people and things for the service of God **(Jeremiah 29:11)**. The process of sanctifying is when God takes us as we are, sees our potential and begins the process of changing us into the image of Christ. There are some things that change instantly and other things that will change over time. Sanctification is twofold: **First:** Christians have been made holy through their union with Christ. God the Father who is holy treats us as holy because the blood of the Holy Lamb of God has been applied to us. **Second:** We are called to continue to grow into and strive for holiness in our daily lives by cooperating with the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- **“You were justified”** - Justification is to pronounce one acquitted and free from guilt and shame, to be declared righteous. The judicial act of

God justly declaring and treating as righteous the one who believes in Jesus Christ; He can righteously do this because His Son received the punishment for our sins. One who is justified is immediately made righteous in regard to relationship with God. It does not mean they are immediately made righteous in character. Character is developed in the sanctification process **(2 Cor 5:21, Romans 8:1)**

Galatians 5:21 says, those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. To practice is to do something repeatedly, continually, and habitually; and, doing something with no sincere desire or effort to change - continuing in sinful behavior without repentance and resisting the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

How can you break from the practice? Have you tried before without success? **(1 Cor 6:11,**

“Spirit of God” is the Holy Spirit. He convicted you, led you to Jesus and has the power to do the will of God **(Romans 8:13).**

The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin and then gives us the power to resist it. First we must confess our sin **(1 John 1:9).** We must ask the Holy Spirit to put to death the practice of the body that was sinful.

We must see ourselves the way God sees us: **Washed, Sanctified and Justified!**