

Be What You Are!

- “Some might say, ‘God is good and kindly; He will not go to extremities over our transgressions. Let us not fear’” – Chrysostom
- 1 Corinthians 6:1-11 – sounds modern

1 Corinthians 6

- 1: *matter* (lawsuit). Brother sues brother.
- 2: saints will judge world. Hb.11:7
- 3: also, angels. 2 Pt.2:4
- 4: ordinary matters (belong to daily life)
- 5: shame! Win in court, lose with God
- 6: go before unbelievers to get decision?
- 7: *utter defeat* – you already lost
- 8: BUT: you do wrong – defraud brethren

I. The Problem of the Unconverted, 1-8

Why are they selfish?

Crowded out gospel with . . .

1. Society's pull? Greeks loved lawsuits
2. Selfish cravings? "You have it; I want it!"
3. Spiteful anger? "Vengeance is mine!"
4. Selective hearing? (6:9)
 - The baptism of some "didn't take"

I. The Problem of the Unconverted, 1-8

II. The Plight of the
Unconverted, 9

Unrighteous will not
inherit the kingdom...

Their conduct matches heathens

Echoes calls to repent in
preaching of John / Jesus

“Do you not know”

Implies invalid arguments
(pride themselves on knowledge)

Self-deception is most dangerous kind

1. “Everybody’s doing it; nobody’s perfect”
(6:15, 18)
2. False sense of security. 10:12-14
3. No hell...eternal hell...soul sleep. Ch.15
4. Beat the system

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II. The Plight of the Unconverted, 9

III. The Profit of Conversion,
9-10

Ten sins, two groups of five

SELF	OTHERS
Fornicators	Thieves
Idolators	Covetous
Adulterers	Drunkards
Homosexuals	Revilers
Sodomites	Extortioners

Hebrews 2:9

- All can repent / control passions, 9:27
- All can be different from world / their past, 6:11
- Tenses:
 - Future (9)
 - Past (11)
 - Present (11) ... “but” ... “but” ... “but”
contrasts present effects of washing with
past immorality

I. The Problem of the Unconverted, 1-8

II. The Plight of the Unconverted, 9

III. The Profit of Conversion, 9

IV. The Pattern of
Conversion, 11

1 Washed

- Middle voice:
 - Expositor's / ASV ftnt.: "Gr. washed yourselves"
 - Lenski: "you let yourselves be washed"
= "you had yourselves washed"
 - Alford: "...but you washed them off"
- Ac.22:16 (they did what Paul did)

1 Washed

- The Corinthians . . .
 - heard / believed, Ac.18:8
 - repented, 1 Co.6:11 [“such were...”]
 - baptized, Ac.18:8
 - 1 Co.1:12-13
 - 1 Co.6:11
 - 1 Co.10:2, new leader, new life

1 Washed

- “The act of washing away sin is linked to baptism. Here he wants to stress the effect of baptism” (Kistemaker, 190).
- “Washed” – a supernatural bath.
 - Implies a solemn vow to pursue purity of heart and life
- 6:9-10: Corinthians gave mixed signals

“We made a mess of life; baptism is a ‘do over’ – a new start, a new creation.”

1 Washed

- Illustrated

Boy and girl grow up, go separate ways.

Meet again

He believes she would make good wife.

He did not think before; changed his mind.

He proposes (confesses). She says yes.

Are they married?

Ep.5

2 Sanctified

- Removed their sin and guilt
- “*To purify* by expiation, free from the guilt of sin” (Th.)
- Sanctification and justification are connected with baptism, thus it is not a mere symbol
 - Mt.23:17, Temple sanctified the gold
 - Corinthians: detached from world, dedicated to God. 1 Co.16:13

3 Justified

1 Co.6:1, 7, 8, 9, 11

- Ro.6:7, “For he who has died has been freed from sin.”
 - ASV ftnt.: *Or, released.*
- Tit.3:7, justified by His grace...
 - Guilty sinners become pardoned, children of God.

Three verbs describe a single instantaneous action

“In the act of baptism they are consecrated to God and declared righteous . . .” – Kistemaker

This results in these changes (“but” 3x)

1. **Washed:** results in new life, Jn.13:6-8; Ac.22:16 (Ro.6:3-4).
2. **Sanctified:** results in new behavior.
Saul (persecutor) – Paul (persecuted)
3. **Justified:** results in favor with God.
Saul (lost); Paul (saved)

“I am not what I might be,
I am not what I ought to be,
I am not what I wish to be,
I am not what I hope to be,
BUT I thank God that I am not what
I once was,
and I can say with the great apostle,
‘By the grace of God I am what I am.’”