

Before Unbelievers?

1 Corinthians 6:1-11

A clarification about eternal salvation and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

1) What does it mean to “inherit the kingdom of God”?

- To “inherit the kingdom of God” means to receive the gift of everlasting life.
- Compare John 3:3-18
- Compare Ephesians 1:11-14
- Compare 1 Peter 1:3-5

2) How have unbelievers and believers been contrasted in 1 Corinthians chapter 6?

| “you” (the Corinthian believers) | “the unrighteous” (unbelievers) |
|----------------------------------|---|
| saints | unrighteous (v1) |
| saints | the world (v2) |
| the church | those least esteemed by the church (v4) |
| brethren | unbelievers (v6) |

3) Who are the “unrighteous”?

- The “unrighteous” refers to people whose identity is not righteous; they are unsaved, have never trusted Christ, and are still in their sins. The “unrighteous” will not go to heaven.

4) Who are the “washed... sanctified... justified”?

- These are the believers which the letter of 1 Corinthians is addressed to. They are righteous **not** because they acted righteously, but because God had declared them righteous when they believed in Christ. They are sinners who are justified. Those who are justified by grace through faith will go to heaven.
- Compare Romans 3:24-25a, 3:28, 5:1

5) Why are these verses about eternal inheritance found in this chapter?

- The believers at Corinth are being reminded of their identity as saints. They are being reminded of the great privileges and blessings which they have received in Christ. And these reminders form the basis for the exhortations to act appropriately—to live as saints have been called to live.

Outline of 1 Corinthians:

I. Introduction (1:1-9)

II. Problems Reported (1:10-6:20)

- a. Divisions (1:10-4:21)
- b. Allowing Immorality (5:1-13)
- c. Fighting in the Legal Courts (6:1-11)

A. DON'T TAKE A BROTHER IN CHRIST TO COURT. (6:1-6)

v1-4 – It is _____ for believers to take their issues before a legal court of unbelievers.

** Will saints judge the world?*

** Will saints judge [fallen] angels?*

** Do saints have the ability to judge the smaller issues of this life?*

v5-6 – It is _____ for believers to take their issues before a legal court of unbelievers.

** Does an ugly court case help unbelievers see the character of God?*

B. KNOWING YOUR FUTURE, ACCEPT WRONG DONE TO YOU NOW. (6:7-11)

v7-8 – Going to legal courts against one another was only one of _____ problems.

**What 3 problems were present? (1) They went to the courts against one another.*

(2) They wronged and cheated one another financially.

(3) They sought to get material justice for themselves.

v9-11 – Going before the doomed unrighteous really does not make sense nor does it _____ the blessed _____ of every believer in Christ.

** **Observation:** Ten varieties of sin are listed, in two groups of five, which reflect the unrighteous position of unbelievers. The first group of five (in v9) are sexual in nature, addressing the issues of 1 Cor. 5:1 and 6:12-20. The second group of five (in v10) stem from other kinds of sinful desires, addressing the issues of 1 Cor. 6:1-8 and 1 Cor. 11:17-22.*

** **Application:** Believers are called to reflect their righteous position, so whenever any of these sins or others are present in our lives, we are inconsistent. Let us be reminded of who we are, what we are here for, and who we belong to – see 1 Cor 6:20.*