

**“INHERITING THE KINGDOM
OF GOD”**
1 Corinthians 6:9-11

INTRODUCTION

The near context of these next few verses is that of settling disputes in the church family, and the contrast of the church vs. the world. Through the scriptures, prayer and the Holy Spirit, we receive God's wisdom. We will judge the world and fallen angels in the future. This next section is both bad news and good news!

THE ISSUE- THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The kingdom of God is the point of discussion now. This kingdom is always futuristic and includes Jesus setting up His kingdom on earth as well as Heaven. *The big question is, how do we get there?* The unfortunate thing is, scripture indicates that most people will not get to Heaven!

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”, v.9. Compare verse 9 to **Matthew 5:20**. In the Old Testament our own righteousness is described as filthy rags, **Isaiah 64:6**. In **Matthew 22**, righteousness is the topic and the right garments represent righteousness in the parable of the marriage feast. Without the right garment (or righteousness), we don't get in!

THE LIST

Paul gives a list of the type of people that do not enter the kingdom of God. They are: fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals (effeminate), sodomites (abusers), thieves, covetous, drunkards, revilers (slanders who destroy reputations), and extortionists. While these types of people are named, this is not an exhaustive list! It was not Paul's intent to list everything. A specific occurrence of these sins is not the issue, it a pattern or lifestyle of these behaviors that is of concern. This passage illustrates the consequences of sin, which is offensive to God. This is what God thinks, despite what our opinions might be!

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

For the believer, a righteousness that comes from God satisfies God. **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”** **Romans 1:16, 17**; See **Phil. 3:9**. The level of righteous that is required has to be supplied! It is through the new birth, with conviction of the Holy Spirit.

CONSIDER

Some unbelievers may feel they are OK because they are not currently guilty of the sins on this list. Some try to establish their own standard of righteousness, **Romans 10:3**. No one is kept out of the kingdom of God because of one particular sin. We have all sinned! People are kept out because they reject God's offer of salvation and spiritual birth. **Romans 1:18**.

The gospel is good news, God's power of salvation! Men and women need to repent, hate sin, renounce it and run from it! **2 Corinthians 7:10**. It is God's desire that we would all do this, **2 Peter 3:9**. Those who claim to believe in Jesus but continue in these or other sins have not had a true conversion experience, **Ezekiel 36, John 3:3**. If we are truly born again, we are washed, sanctified and justified. That's how we meet God's standards. To be washed is to be cleansed from sin, **1 John 1:9**. Even our conscience is cleansed. To be sanctified is to be separated. Walking in this way gives us power over sin. To be justified is to be declared righteous. Because of what God has done, we meet His standard. *Do not be deceived and trust in your own terms of righteousness!* God has provided His righteousness for us!

PRAY

- that we would truly hate sin and repent of it!
- that we would yield to His Holy Spirit.
- for clear presentations of the gospel in our churches.
- for new birth to be evidenced in our area churches!