

## DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 8)

### “...about the Power of the Gospel”

**INTRO:** Satan is a liar and a deceiver. He showed up in the Garden and deceived Eve and Adam. It's been his strategy ever since. So far...

**TODAY:** Don't be deceived about the transforming power of the Gospel (1 Cor. 6:9-11). The good news of Jesus Christ changes lives (Rom. 1:16; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Tim. 1:8-10). Even the worst of lives, God has the power to change. Overview 1 Cor. Context... troubled church with too much carnality...

**“KINGDOM OF GOD”** (2xs) 328 xs in 86 verses plus Kingdom of Heaven 165 Xs in 41 verses = 493. Several shades of meaning...The rule and reign of God (Mk. 1:15) Matt. 6:10 Jesus prayed... God's will be done... Both present (already) and future (not yet)

### I. THE PROBLEM (vv.9-10)

- A. Their Condition (v.9 “unrighteous”). Unrighteous and unbelieving people have no place in the Kingdom of God (present or future), unless repent and believe (Mk. 1:14-15). These people are simply lost and separated from God.
- B. Their Characteristics (not exhaustive list!). Their condition is manifested in their conduct! (5:11) This catalogue of sins is disturbing – still common today.
  1. Four Sexual sins (v.9b) – much sexual immorality in Corinth –
    - sexually immoral – fornication (unmarried)
    - idolaters – pursue peace and joy outside of God
    - adulterers – married
    - homosexuals – rampant in Corinth and Rome
  2. Five Social sins (v. 10)
    - thieves – robbers
    - greedy – covetous
    - drunkards – substance abuse
    - revilers - violent and abusive
    - swindlers – defraud
  - C. Their Confusion - “Is Paul saying that if you do one or more of these, you are doomed for hell?” I don't think so or heaven could be essentially empty! We've all done some of these BEFORE we came to Christ and even AFTER. It's the difference in *isolated*

*acts* versus lifestyle. Mostly a difference in *response* – indifferent versus broken and repentant. Every one of us are ex somethings! Quote by MacArthur...

### II. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL (v.11)

As noted earlier, the gospel has all the necessary power to change lives through Christ and His Spirit (2 Cor. 5:17).

- A. Power to Remove Sins (Eph.1:7; Col. 1:14)-Jn. 1:29
- B. Power to Transform Lives (v.11)

- “washed” (Titus 3:5) – cleansed and regenerated to a new life
- “sanctified” – growth process has begun, speaks to new *attitudes and behaviors*
- “justified” speaks of a new *standing* before God clothed in the righteousness of Christ

All past tense. How does this change happen? “Through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God”

**ILLUS:** Jane Roe story....

- C. Power to Provide an Inheritance (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 4:7)

We are heirs! No inheritance for the unrighteous. No room for unrighteousness in the inherited.

### III. PROPER RESPONSE?

- A. Seek first the “already” Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33)
- B. Cooperate with the indwelling Holy Spirit to put to death the deeds of the flesh (Col. 3:5-10).
- C. Become who you are now in Christ – Grow and mature. Use your life to glorify Him (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

**CONC:** Don't be deceived about the power of the gospel to change lives. No stronger argument for the cause of Christ than a changed and changing life. It's hard to refute first-hand, eye witnesses.