

Staying Out Of The Mud

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 19th, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Such were some of you; but
you were washed, but you were
sanctified, but you were justified in
the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
and in the Spirit of our God.**

~ 1st Corinthians 6:11 (NASB)

1) Do Not Be Deceived!

- A) After confronting followers of Christ with their toleration of incest (1st Corinthians 5:1-13), and lawsuits amongst followers of Christ (6:1-8), Paul wants to encourage followers of Christ to live pure lives (6:9-11).

- B) You'll recall that Paul desires for Jesus Christ to be center stage in the life of the believer (cf. 2:2). He confronts pride in the church, and calls on followers of Christ to engage sinful situations (their own and those of others).

- C) Why would Paul do this? Because the "kingdom of God" is at stake! "Do you not know?," Paul cries out! Do not be deceived! Following Christ is for an inheritance, and the inheritance is exclusively for true followers of Jesus (6:9)!

2) The Dirty Decalogue ~ 10 Former Lifestyles Of Death

- A) In order to illustrate the incredible difference following Christ makes in one's life, Paul recalls a "dirty decalogue" of vices/sins which are characteristic of a self-directed life.

- B) 1st Corinthians 6:9 ~ Fornicators (NIV, sexually immoral) include prostitutes and those hired/hiring for sex. Idolators are those who consult idols, mystics, fortune tellers. Adulterers are those who have sexual relations with a married person, but are not married to them. Effeminate (NIV, male prostitutes) are those who are passive in same-sex relationships. Homosexuals are those who participate in a same-sex sexual relationship.

- C) 1st Corinthians 6:10 ~ Thieves are those who steal that which is not theirs. Covetous (NIV, greedy) are those who insatiably desire more. Drunkards are those who drink alcohol to the point of becoming out of control. Revilers (NIV, slanderers) are those who are abusive with their speech through aggressive insults and/or manipulation. Swindlers are those who steal by force, a mugger.

3) The Power Of The Spirit-Shower

- A) These behaviors are characteristic of an old life (6:11), and are even characteristic of "some of you." However, through washing (salvation) and sanctification (continual washing) comes "justification" (pronounced clean/righteous).

- B) This washing still comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ (6:11), and the indwelling of God's Spirit (6:11), this is the substance of salvation, sanctification and justification!