

## Don't Be Deceived – 1 Cor 6:8-11

1 Cor 6:8-11

(Intro) Paul talks about a massive deception in this passage, and if you think about it, deceptions are as old as the world  
Intending to fake you and take you before you know what hit you

Like Satan's deception of Eve in the Garden of Eden  
Or the Trojan Horse of the Greeks c.1200BC, by which they smuggled 30 warriors into the city of Troy, and eventually overthrew it  
There were faked out, and then taken out

Or how about Ponzi schemes in the financial world?  
Where people like Bernie Madoff steal from Peter to pay Paul – in order to fulfill their promises of grandiose investment returns  
In fact, his \$65 billion Ponzi scheme ranks as the largest investor fraud ever attributed to a single individual  
That's a big deception; Faking people, and then taking people, for all their worth

- But there's one deception that exceeds them all, and has for all time – both in its extent *and* its consequences  
And that's the *self*-deception of those in sin – thinking they're just fine, when they're not  
Or that they're saints when they're really sinners

It's a massive deception, first initiated by Satan in the Garden of Eden, and perpetuated to this day in the hearts and minds of those who live a sinful life  
Including I fear, in some of you

So as we look at this issue from 1 Cor 6, I hope you'll search your heart in light of it  
Will you do that? Will you consider, as I speak, whether or not you've been faked out by the deceit of your own sin?  
And if so, humble yourself before the Lord, and turn to him in faith and repentance before we're done?

I hope you do  
B/c the self-deception of sin will fake you and take you worse than all the Trojan Horses and Ponzi schemes put together  
Leaving you with nothing but an empty life, and an eternity apart from God  
That's the issue at hand

- And after saying in v7 – Why not rather suffer wrong, and why not rather be defrauded if you're on the receiving end of a grievance or dispute . . .  
He then says in v8 – *But you yourselves wrong and defraud – even your own brothers*  
IOW you're part of the problem; You're *committing* the wrongs  
And that, against the people in your own church!

Which is bad enough by itself, but Paul's point in the next verses, is that it make *you* unrighteous  
**Your wrongdoing** makes you a sinner, even if you think you're a saint (read v9-10)

When you continue in sin – no matter what it is or where it's at; inside the church or out . .

With no godly grief, and no fruit of repentance . . .  
You're a sinner – an *unrighteous* person in God's eyes  
And Paul says in v9, b/c of it, you *will not* inherit the K of G – i.e. you will not receive the benefits of salvation

And that, is the biggest problem with your sin; It . . .  
**Your sin disqualifies you from the Kingdom of God**

It disqualifies you from the peace, and protection, and provision of his rule and reign in your life – both now and for all eternity  
Your sin disqualifies you from that

Whereas, if you're righteous in God's sight, the K of G is yours to enjoy *now, and* later  
*Now*, with all the benefits of life-to-the-full; And *later* with all the benefits of life-forever – *if* you're righteous in God's sight  
But if you're *unrighteous*, don't be deceived – you're on the outside looking in  
The K of G is *not* yours – **neither now, nor later**

- You can't do whatever you want, and live however you please, and still go to heaven  
Still be saved; Still be a part of God's peace, and protection, and provision  
You can't and you won't

Even if you're a “good” person, doing more good than bad, but have nothing to do with the Lord – you're still destined for hell  
You're still destined for eternal punishment in the lake of fire  
B/c your sin and sinfulness disqualify you from the K of G

- How much more, those who *continue* in their sin like Paul is talking about  
Those who indulge in it, and are characterized by it, and intend to stay that way  
**Don't be deceived Paul says – you will not inherit the K of G [USE NEXT SEGMENT]**  
And let's be honest here – that list describes some of you, doesn't it?

Some of you are *sexually immoral* right now  
You continue to indulge in sexual sin of one sort or another – whether pornography or fornication (you know, sexual acts that s/b reserved for marriage) . . .  
And there's no godly grief for how you're offending him . . .  
And no fruit of repentance – no sign that you love God enough to stop, let alone any evidence that you have  
You're sexually immoral, and you're not saved – consequently you will not inherit the K of G, b/c you're not **a part of it now**

Others of you are *idolaters* – living for some-*thing*, or some-*one*, *other* than the Lord  
It might be a cause that you're living for, an organization, leisure, or simply yourself  
Whatever the case, you're an idolater – and you're not saved either

- **That's the crystal** clear implication of this passage, when Paul contrasts those in v11 who have been washed, sanctified, and justified . . .  
With those in v9-10 who haven't  
Whose lives are characterized not by the saving work of God, but by the corrupting work of their flesh – and they're not saved b/c of it  
And neither are some of you **for same reason**

Like those of you who are *adulterers*

Some of you are currently indulging in sex or sexual acts outside of your marriage . . .

And you're not saved

And some of you are practicing *homosexuality* – not referring to your *feelings*, but your actions with people of the same sex

Some of you are characterized by that sin, and **you're not saved**

Others of you are perpetual *thieves* – taking what's not yours

Or *greedy* – never satisfied with what you have, and always trying to get more

And you're not saved either

You will not inherit the K of G, b/c you're not a part of it now

**Still others** of you are *drunkards* aren't you?

Routinely using alcohol to numb your feelings, and impairing your judgment along the way; Or abusing drugs to escape reality

Or *revilers* – where *your* norm is to be verbally abusive of those around you; often going hand in hand with drunkenness; and you're **not saved either**

And last but not least, some of you are *swindlers* – deceptively taking advantage of people when they don't even know it, like Bernie Madoff; And you're not saved

**Nor will you be** when Jesus brings the K of G to completion

When he comes to judge the world and separate the sheep from the goats

The righteous from the unrighteous; The followers from the fakers

The saints **from the sinners**

**[READ V9-10 FROM BOTTOM OF PAGE 1]**

- And if you're thinking – Well, couldn't someone be doing these sorts of things and just be a backslidden believer? Ya, they *could*

It could be that they're miserable in their sin, not b/c it bothers their conscience – we all have that . . .

But b/c it bothers the HS who lives within them

It could be that they're backslidden; But it's not likely

Not over a long period of time, with little to no godly grief, or fruit of repentance

Part of which is a struggle to stop, b/c it offends God

Most of the time that's an academic question intended to comfort our conscience, or enable us to deny the truth about someone who's close to us

Don't do that; Better to admit the truth, say it like it is, and do something about it

B/c if they're continuing in sin, they're probably not saved

And if *you're* continuing in sin, neither are you

And you won't *be* saved when Christ returns

B/c your sin disqualifies you **from the K of G**

The good news is . . .

**But there's hope**

**Your sin disqualifies** you from the K of G, but there's hope

Shown by the fact that some in Corinth were guilty of those things as well – *such were some of you* Paul says in v11

IOW they *were* sinful, but now they're saved

They *were* disqualified, but now they sanctified; They *were* dirty, but now they're clean

They *were* sinners, but now they're saints

And the same is true of many of *you* sitting right here, isn't it?

Some of *you* were sexually immoral before God saved you, weren't you?

Others of you were adulterers, or practicing homosexuals, or drunkards, or greedy . . .

Far from God and far from his kingdom – living an empty, futile, miserable life . . .

While headed for an empty, futile, miserable death

That was you, wasn't it?

- But you too, just like the Corinthians, have been *washed* haven't you?

Immersed in the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb, forgiven of your sin, and washed white as snow

Clean, through and through in the eyes of God, just like those in Corinth

Not only that, but you've been *sanctified*

Set apart for God's use and purposes, and made new so that you can fulfill them

Never more to live for *your* glory or *your* goals, but for *God's* glory and *God's* goals

You've been sanctified

And u've been *justified* – declared righteous in God's sight; just as if you'd never sinned

Completely released from your guilt, and the punishment you deserve – once and for all

- Some of you were sinners just like the Corinthians – far from God, and headed for hell Until you admitted your sin, believed in Jesus, asked him to forgive you, and received him into your life

At which point you were washed, and sanctified, and justified – just like the Corinthians

Which means, there's *hope* for the rest of you

Hope for those of you who are still *in* sin your sin, and still *unrighteous* **in God's eyes**

There's hope, and it's . . .

**Found in Jesus**

**Your sin disqualifies** you from the K of G, but there's hope found in Jesus

Or as Paul says it – *in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ*

That is, based on who Jesus is, the work he's done, his life-changing power, and his almighty authority – you can be saved

You too can be washed and sanctified and justified – by his power, authority, and work

His work on the cross in dying for your sins, paying your penalty, and rising again for your life

All of which is applied to your life by the Holy Spirit of God as Paul says

Awakening you unto faith, and making you alive unto righteousness

So that you will turn to Jesus and be released from the bondage of your sin, relieved of its consequences, restored in your soul, and renewed in your mind

Fit for his presence, and ready for his work

- No wonder there's hope found in Jesus  
He paid it all, and he offers it all, *freely*; And you can receive it all **if you're saved**  
The question is, are you?

### **Are you saved?**

Are you saved? Are *you* saved?

- Do you know beyond a shadow of a doubt that you're a part of the K of G?
- Among the righteous, instead of the unrighteous?
- The fellowship of the redeemed, instead of the fellowship of the condemned?

Are you saved for the glories of heaven, or headed for the gloom of hell?

- Are you living life to the full, or are you up to here with life?
- With no hope, no peace, and no future – and you know it?
- Continuing in your sin, and facing judgment? Is *that* you?

- If so, why don't you do something about it?  
Why don't you confess your sin, believe in Jesus, ask him to forgive you, and receive him into your life right now; right now

B/c if you don't, you'll *never* inherit the K of G – don't be deceived

- Don't be deceived by your love for your own sin . . .
- Or by others who say it's okay when it's not; Or by Satan and his lies
- Or by your own self-deception that you're a good person, and that's good enough
- B/c it's not

It doesn't matter who you are

- You *must* be washed, and sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – in order to inherit the K of G

- Never again to live a life of sin and debauchery, but a life of holiness and righteousness, in honor of the one who *saved* you and keeps you

You must be saved; The **question is, are you?**

- If not, I'm going to give you an opp to do so right now as we pray  
To come forward, get on your knees, and be saved  
To kneel down right here – and admit your sin to God, confess your belief in Jesus, ask for forgiveness, and invite him into your heart  
Washed in the blood of the Lamb, sanctified by the Spirit, and justified by God himself – once and for all

You can do that right now, and say with those who've gone before you . . .

- I once was lost, but now am found; I once was blind, but now I see
- I *once* was sinful, but now I'm saved

So you come as the Worship Team sings . . .

- And I'll lead u in a prayer to surrender your life to Jesus, and be saved once and for all

- (Prayer; *Come Ye Sinners*) Father, will you convict the sinful, and convince the cynical, and draw men and women unto yourself?  
Call them out of their darkness and into your light; And save their souls

You come as Worship Team sings, and the rest of us will keep praying

- Prayer of Salvation

God, I know that I'm a sinner, and need your forgiveness – there's no doubt in my mind  
And I believe that Jesus died on the cross and shed his blood for my sins – for me  
Will you forgive me of my sin and the consequences I deserve – I'm done with it  
Please, come into my life by the power of your Spirit – and help me live for you

You just made the most important decision of your life

You're' now a child of God – washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

And sealed by the HS within you, to live the life to which he's called you  
Welcome to the family of God

Let's stand and worship (stay up front; worship with us; fill out card)