**Washed, Sanctified, and Justified**

*1 Corinthians 6:11*

**Introduction**

1. The Corinthians were preached the gospel by the apostle Paul, believed it, obeyed it, and were saved – **Acts 18:8**
2. However, due to their immaturity and carnality some continued in sin, supposing that to do so was safe.
3. Paul warned – **1 Corinthians 6:9-11** – the unrighteous will not see heaven.
	1. **(v. 11**) – reminded them of their conversion.
	2. **2 Peter 1:8-9** – they were shortsighted, having forgotten they were cleansed of their sins.
	3. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – They needed to remember who they belonged to, and what conduct that demanded.
4. When we are tempted let us remember that WE were washed, WE were sanctified, and WE were justified “in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”
5. Washed
6. The Filth of Sin
	1. We need to see sin as it really is – filthy.
	2. Scripture calls sin filthiness – **James 1:21**
	3. Sin dishonors the body – **Romans 1:24, 26-31** – certainly a sin as base as homosexuality, but all the others listed are also “not fitting” and dishonor the body.
		1. We teach children to honor their bodies in part by good hygiene. We ought to view our bodies even more so in the spiritual light.
	4. “The word here rendered filthiness, occurs nowhere else in the New Testament, It means properly filth; and then is applied to evil conduct considered as disgusting or offensive. Sin may be contemplated as a wrong thing; as a violation of law; as evil in its nature and tendency, and therefore to be avoided; or it may be contemplated as disgusting, offensive, loathsome. To a pure mind, this is one of its most odious characteristics; for, to such a mind, sin in any form is more loathsome than the most offensive object can be to any of the senses.” (Albert Barnes’ Notes on the Bible; James 1:21 – filthiness)
		1. Concerning Israel’s unfaithfulness – **Jeremiah 2:22** – wash with soap, but still filthy (spiritually – sin). ***(“The stain of your iniquity is before Me” – NASB***)
		2. **Proverbs 13:5** – wickedness is loathsome.
7. The Cleansing Power – Christ’s Blood
	1. Nothing but the blood of Jesus:
		1. **Revelation 7:14** – robes made white in blood.
		2. No remission without blood – **Hebrews 9:22**
		3. Not blood of animals – **Hebrews 10:1-4**
			1. Reminded of sins.
			2. IN the most filthy way – blood spilled continually – decay and stench.
		4. Blood of Christ – **Hebrews 9:13-14** – CLEANSE CONSCIENCE FROM SIN.
	2. Accessed through baptism:
		1. That washing must be participated in – **Isaiah 1:16, 18** – wash yourselves!
		2. Draw near having been washed – **Hebrews 10:22** (**cf. 1 Peter 3:21** – appeal for a good conscience)
		3. Washing of water by the word – **Ephesians 5:25-27**
			1. Water – baptism
			2. By the word – i.e. through the instruction of the word – ***“by the Spirit of our God” (1 Corinthians 6:11)***.
			3. Gospel’s demand – **Mark 16:15-16**
		4. Wash away your sins – **Acts 22:16**
8. Why return to the filth? (**2 Peter 2:18-22**)
	1. False teachers who had escaped the filth of sin.
	2. Turning back to sin away from righteousness would lend a bitter end.
	3. They return to the filth.
9. Sanctified
10. The Communion with Sin and the World
	1. Christians are those who have escaped corruption or depravity – **2 Peter 1:4**
	2. When they were without Christ:
		1. **Colossians 1:21** – alienated from God, thus enemies of God.
		2. **Ephesians 2:1-3** – dead in sin, after the world, subject to Satan, rebellious, fulfilling desires, subject to wrath.
	3. Separated from God – **Isaiah 59:2** – thus subject to wrath.
		1. When we are in communion with sin and the world we do not have spiritual life.
		2. We do not have spiritual blessings, and the only thing we look forward to is the destruction to come.
		3. That is, unless we’re separated from the unclean.
11. Set Apart by God, to God, and for Salvation
	1. The aim of preaching the gospel – **Acts 26:16-18** – Jesus to Paul.
		1. Turn from darkness to light.
		2. Turn from power of Satan to God. (Power – authority)
		3. Sanctified – set apart from all these – by faith.
	2. Sanctified by the sacrifice of Christ – **Hebrews 10:10, 14**
		1. **Colossians 1:13-14** – taken out of darkness into kingdom
		2. **Colossians 1:19-22** – reconciled to God through Jesus.
	3. Sanctification as it pertains to our continued separation from sin, and to God’s purposes:
		1. Need for continual separation – **2 Timothy 2:19, 22**
		2. In conjunction with Jesus’ sacrifice, the truth sets apart – **John 17:14-19**
			1. Jesus sanctified Himself – i.e. consecrated Himself to the service of God in His death.
			2. So that the apostles (then all believers) could be sanctified – consecrated to the service of God, not the word.
			3. **(v. 17)** – ultimately accomplished by God’s word.
		3. The will of God – **1 Thessalonians 4:1-3** – sanctification. (Negative – away from sin; Positive – abounding in God’s work) (With the specificity of abstinence from sexual sins.)
		4. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** – Sanctified for God’s service – our body is for Him.
	4. Set apart from sin and death for salvation – **Romans 6:20-23** – set apart to bear fruits of righteousness that end in eternal life.
12. Why return to the world? (**2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)**
	1. You were separated from sin, and from sinners.
	2. You are God’s people now, and serve His purposes!
	3. Why would you seek to have any connection (unequal) with those? BE SEPARATE! (Consequence – **v. 17** – not to be received by God)
13. Justified
14. The Guilt of Sin
	1. All confined under sin, and made guilty – **Romans 3:9, 23** – all have sinned.
	2. Wages **– Romans 6:23** – death.
		1. Judicial wrath of God – doesn’t want men to perish – **Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9**
		2. However, sin requires death.
	3. How will we escape condemnation?
		1. **Matthew 23:33** – Jesus to the Pharisees.
		2. They won’t escape because they kill those God sent to save them – **Matthew 23:31-36** – especially Jesus. (**cf. Matthew 21:37-39** – parable of wicked vinedressers)
	4. Deliverance from guilt and condemnation in Jesus.
15. The Justification by God
	1. God, both just and the justifier through Jesus:
		1. Question – if the wages of death must be paid, how can God allow us to live and still be just?
		2. **Romans 3:21-26 –** Jesus’ blood is the payment that satisfies God’s judicial wrath, and we access the gift by faith.
		3. **Isaiah 53:4-6** – God laid our iniquity on Him – i.e. in the sense of Him taking our punishment (death).
	2. **Romans 5:9** – Justified, thus saved from wrath.
16. Why return to guilt? (**Psalm 32:1-5**)
	1. There is a blessedness of being freed from guilt.
	2. We can stand in confidence knowing that we are right with God.
	3. Why return to the heavy weight of guilt, and the expectation of punishment? (**cf. Hebrews 10:26-27** – certain expectation of judgement)

**Conclusion**

1. We are blessed that God has washed the filth of sin away, set us apart from sin to His glory, and made us to stand guiltless before Him.
2. Why would we ever turn back to the ways of sin, thus, the way of filth, fellowship with the perishing world, and guilt?
3. Remember, don’t be shortsighted – **2 Peter 1:9**