

## AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 6.9–11

**Theme:** We glory in the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ

### Introduction – Martin Luther was an interesting man

- in his writings in table conversation Luther would often refer to visits from the Devil
- talk about how the Devil would come to him and whisper in his ear, accusing him of all manner of filthy sin:
- “Martin, you are a liar, greedy, lecherous, a blasphemer, a hypocrite.
- You cannot stand before God.”
- Luther would respond: “Well, yes, I am. And, indeed, Satan, you do not know the half of it.
- I have done much worse than that and if you care to give me your full list, I can no doubt add to it and help make it more complete.
- But you know what? My Savior has died for all my sins
- those you mention, those I could add and, indeed, those I have committed
- but I am so wicked that I am unaware of having done so.
- It does not change the fact that Christ has died for all of them
- his blood is sufficient
- and on the Day of Judgment I shall be exonerated
- because he has taken all my sins on himself and clothed me in his own perfect righteousness.”
- Luther wasn’t trying to be morbidly introspective
- was making sure he understood his sinful nature, but all in light of Christ’s work on cross
- very appropriate, as approach this Table
- hard for us to do; almost as if Satan comes alongside & whispers: “You’re not so bad”
- two great evil temptations he throws our way: too sinful to be here; not so bad, enjoy it
- proper biblical perspective: where sin becomes bitter, the cross becomes sweet
- want this Table to be sweet to us, so let’s look to what Bible says about our condition
- Read 1 Corinthians 6.9–11
- **“Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”**
- let’s consider these words of God to us today
- let’s take great comfort in our forgiveness, even as we give the glory to Jesus Christ

*What we see first off is...*

## I. **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**

- read vv. 9–10 again
- **Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.**
- most of us think: that's not me; I've never done any of those types of things

### 1. **OK, but try this on for size: Galatians 5.19–21a**

- **“Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**
- grievous list of sins, same consequence: no entrance to kingdom of God
- or how about 1 Timothy 1.9–10
- **“understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine”**
- truly reprehensible things spoken of here
- and then we can go to Romans 1.29–32
- **They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.**
- note the vile nature of those who not only do these things, but cheer on others who do too
- let's keep going, Scripture's not done: Titus 3.3
- **For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another.**
- perhaps starting to strike a bit closer to home now

### 2. **No one escapes**

- if think you have so far, let's hear what God says in Romans 3.9–18, 23

- **What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” “Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive.” “The venom of asps is under their lips.” “Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.” “Their feet are swift to shed blood; in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they have not known.” “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**
- **for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
- no one here exempt from anything here
- none exempt at all; all have sinned
- not really a need for a list of any kind here
- this is our condition: Ephesians 2.1–3
- **And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**
- so, yes, of such were you

*But there is good news in the middle of all this...*

## II. **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**

- let’s do a little grammar here
- I know; it’s a painful exercise, but it’s necessary
- God created grammar, gave it to us, and He uses it to speak to us, so have to see it
- absolutely vital to our understanding and to our life

### 1. **Such were...**

- past tense to the verb: to be, or “you are...”
- vv. 9 – 10 stirs up all kinds of thoughts of our past
- even if list doesn’t touch on our sins, still brings up memories of past sins we’ve committed
- here’s where grammar is necessary
- we must see the past, the bitterness of our sinful past
- why? John Calvin said, **“For the greater the misery is acknowledged to be, from which we have escaped through the Lord’s kindness, so much the more does the magnitude of His grace shine forth.”**

- in simpler terms, perhaps, when sin becomes bitter, the cross becomes sweeter
- seeing the depths from which we've been rescued heightens the joy of our salvation
- don't ever cease to look at Ephesians 2.1–3
- but don't stop there; go on to v. 4 – But God!
- make sure to hear Romans 6.17
- **But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,**

## 2. Something else from our past

- might be long past; might be recent past
- but by God's mercy & grace, something else took place through Christ's work
- you were washed, you were sanctified, and you were justified

### 1) were washed

- not by a priest who poured small amount of water over your head
- not by me or another pastor when they put you under the water in a baptistry or lake
- no, you were washed as Christ's blood poured out on that cross nearly 2,000 years ago
- it's a spiritual cleansing that is referred to here: Titus 3.5,6
- **he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

### 2) were sanctified

- not through your attempts to be a decent sort of person
- not by having godly parents
- not even by attending a solid, Bible-teaching church
- no, when you trusted Christ, He'd done all that's necessary to cleanse you from sin
- and He's continuing that process until it's through
- Hebrews 10.14: **For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**
- Philippians 1.6: **And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.**
- Jesus will work according to His power to help us break our love affair with sin
- and He will finish that work, presenting us complete, before His Father in heaven

### 3) were justified

- this is not done on our own efforts to be good
- this is not accomplished through our best intentions to just get by
- and all our hopes and dreams of being just a bit better than the worst of people won't do
- no, again, it all belongs to Jesus Christ
- God declares us righteous only by the work of Christ, not by our works
- Romans 3.21–26 — **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**
- again, what we've learned from Ephesians 2.8-9
- **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

### 4) All in Christ Jesus

- God has made us alive in Christ
- through His Spirit He has given us new birth
- our heart has been made new from once being so hard with sin
- Christ washed us & cleansed us from guilt of our sin
- Christ sanctified us – He's done all that necessary, even as He purifies thru rest of life
- Christ justified us and we bear His righteousness, not any of our own filthy rags
- all here before us, in bread & cup
- we've been washed by His blood
- set apart through His brokenness
- and by faith, we're not guilty in partaking, thru trusting Christ

*And then, lastly in the phrase of this verse 11 we hear...*

### III. **SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU**

- some of you... perhaps fell into the sins presented in the lists read earlier
- some of you... while trusting in Christ, still know the pain from those past days
- some of you... may never have committed those kinds of sins, however...

- you were still just as dead in your other sins, the disobedience, the self-righteousness
- but don't stay there in that place, wallowing in regrets and guilt
- if you are in Christ, then all of that is in your past as well: such WERE some of you
- you've been washed, you've been justified, you've been sanctified

**Conclusion – but is this describing all of you here this morning?**

- I wonder if every single one here has trusted Christ for the forgiveness of their sin?
- I wonder if each one of you knows what it's like to have had Christ break the bonds of sin in you
- I wonder...
- I may wonder all I want, but God truly knows; He's the heart inspector – He knows each heart
- and if this statement is not about past tense for you, but still present tense...
- then the invitation is not to come to the Table, but to come to Christ
- come to Him and repent of your sins
- come to Him and trust in His good work for you
- receive Him today, be washed, be sanctified, be justified
- don't fool yourself any longer, but come to Him

**To any others here this morning, that know with confidence “Jesus is mine”**

- then come to this table with joy and gladness
- come, knowing that such were some of you