

The Difference Between “Were” and “Are”, Part III

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I Corinthians 6:9-20 ⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who submit to or perform homosexual acts, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor verbal abusers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. 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. ¹²“Everything is permissible for me,” but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible for me,” but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food,” but God will destroy them both. The body is not intended for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴By His power God raised the Lord from the dead, and He will raise us also. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or don’t you know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” ¹⁷But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a man can commit is outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore glorify God with your body. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage.

A. We are given the **pathway** for us to be changed from “Were” to “Are”. V. 11

1. The first is that we must be **washed**. V. 11 This “**washing**” has mainly two interpretations. The first is baptism. The second is the inner profession that baptism represents.
2. The second is **Sanctified**. V. 11 **Sanctification** means to be set apart for holy use. This implies a regeneration has preceded it. There are many interpretations of this. Some say it happens immediately at salvation. Others say that it is a post salvation experience. We view it as a process that begins at salvation and continues your whole live.
3. The third is **Justified**. V. 11 This is often used in an accounting format. It is when a debt is paid for and a positive balance is given.
4. All three of these happen through the **declaration** of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ through the active working of the Holy Spirit. V. 11

II. How can we apply these truths to our life?

- A.** We must continue in **humility**. No one has ever been saved through righteous perfection.
- B.** We must cultivate a heart of **gratitude**. Worshipping God through **gratitude** has great power.
- C.** We must celebrate God’s **mercy** and extend this **mercy** to others.
- D.** We must desire to see others **conserved** for Christ.
- E.** We must have a commitment to **never** return to our old life.