

Were and Are

“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.”

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

There is such a powerful difference between *were* and *are*. What a difference knowing Jesus makes between the way we *were* and the way we *are* now. And that difference is not one we could achieve on our own.

That difference is made possible by the work of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit who has made us clean—*washed*; who has set us apart and given us pure hearts—*sanctified*; and who has declared us innocent and holy—*justified*.

The Apostle Paul appears to be reminding the Corinthians of their conversion, wherein they called on the name of the Lord Jesus to save them, were baptized in His name, and received the transforming gift of the Holy Spirit. Let us walk obediently in the Spirit and never forget what God has done for us, how we are no longer like we once were.

Today, I want to encourage you to look back to the time you came to Christ and celebrate who you are now, through the work of Jesus Christ and by the power of God’s Spirit. I encourage you to leave behind who you were before you came to know Christ, and actively live out your faith as the new person you are now!

Now that you are a new person in Christ, you must move on toward perfection by living as Jesus did in the power of the Holy Spirit.

“You have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

(Colossians 3:9-10)

Let’s all read Colossians 3 this week, and do it!

Prayer

Holy God, thank you for your wonderful grace. I praise you for what you are making me to be. I thank you that I am not what I once was. I thank you that even when I stumble, Jesus’ blood continues to cleanse me and your Spirit is working to conform me to your holy image and your gracious character. Continue your work of transformation in me through the Holy Spirit, as I walk as Jesus did. I pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Scott