

March 29, 2020 “Sanctified” Bible Studies for Life Senior Adults

What is something unique about yourself?

Fingerprints	Education	Places where you’ve traveled
Hair color	Music you like	Foods you like
Car you drive	Job	Clothes you wear

We all are unique in many ways. We were designed to live in a relationship with God through the sacrifice of Christ and to live set apart from the ways of a sinful world.

POINT: He calls us to be set apart in Christ, sanctified, to live holy lives.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV) “Do 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 male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And 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.”

What does it mean to inherit the kingdom of God?

- the “kingdom of God” is the spiritual realm where God reigns supreme
- Jesus Christ is king
- God’s authority is recognized
- His will is obeyed
- God will reign eternally
- He wants to rule in our lives
- those who choose a wicked lifestyle do not allow God to rule in their lives
- they do not experience the kingdom/rule of God

What were the behaviors (self-pleasures) listed in verse 9 and 10?

Verse 9	Verse 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sexually immoral• Idolaters• Adulterers• Male prostitutes• Homosexual offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thieves• Greedy• Drunkards• Slanders• Swindlers

How are all these offenses similar?

Offensive to God	Wicked
They are all sinful	Deceitful

What are the consequences of following these ways? Will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

The Corinthian church had lost sight of the lordship of Jesus Christ. They boasted about their sinful ways. Then Paul asked them the question; Don't you know that the unrighteousness will not inherit God's kingdom?

What changed the Corinthians' standing before God?

Washed – We are washed clean of our sin through faith in Christ. “The blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” 1 John 1:7.

Sanctified – To be “set apart” for God's special use; therefore, including holy living. Believers should live in a way that sets them apart from the ways of the impure. Sanctification is an ongoing process that requires a daily commitment to follow Christ.

Justified – To be put in right relation or right standing with God, which only God can make possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is a one-time event.

God is not the only one who is holy. We are to be holy also. We are to be set apart from the world. ¹⁵“But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy” 1 Peter 1:15 – 16.

When we become a Christian, we are no longer enslaved to sin. The Father sees us as righteous. “He who made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God” 2 Corinthians 5:2.

We make a profession of faith. We believe and trust in Christ that He died a sinner's death on the cross to take away our sin. He rose from the grave to give us new life. We are justified, put into a right relationship with God, and we are sanctified daily.

How does it make a person feel to know that they have been washed, set apart to be holy, and declared to be sinless before God the Father?

Thankful

Grateful

Thirsty to learn

Excited

Thrilled

Desire to make the right choices

How can a person's life change when they accept Christ?

People with addictions (drugs, sex, foul language, worry, anger, food etc.) can be set free

An Atheist understands that God died for them too

A shy person can boldly speak up about their faith

People that are uncertain about their future learn that God will direct their paths

People can learn that God can use them in a mighty way

People can be set free from sin's influence in their lives

People learn to make decisions that are pleasing to God and not indulge in self-pleasures

Next, we will read about the ethical implications of living a holy life.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12 – 17 ¹²"I have the right to do anything," you say, but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything," but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant 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 himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not 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 whoever is united with the LORD is one with him in spirit."

What did some of the Corinthians believe about their freedom in Christ? Everything is permissible. They believed they could do whatever they wanted. Gnosticism taught that anyone could do anything physically, and it had no bearing on their spiritual life. Paul taught that we cannot separate body and spirit. Our physical bodies belong just as much to Christ as our spirits do. When we accept Christ, we are joined with Him through the Holy Spirit. We are one with Him. Our bodies are a part of His body. Our actions should reflect what Christ would do.

Paul used the marriage analogy to show the meaning of a man and woman becoming one. A husband is set apart for his wife and a wife is set apart for her husband. It is the same in our relationship with Christ. We are joined to Christ and set apart for His purposes. Our bodies play a significant role as the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Read 1 Corinthians 6:18 – 20 ¹⁸"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰you were bought with a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

How did Paul advise his readers to deal with the potential of sexual sin?

Flee sexual immorality! Run away, get as far away as you can and do it immediately. Not only should we flee from sexual immorality, but we should do this for any sin that controls our life. We must run toward Christ! Paul instructed Timothy to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11). We are to pursue the sanctified life.

What does it mean to call our bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit?

God's Holy Spirit lives inside of us. We are expected to take care of what God has given us. We are to honor our body. We are to use our body to glorify Christ.

God is glorified when we pursue the things of God and live sanctified lives. He set us apart. We are not our own. The Holy Spirit is with us all the time. All of our choices should bring glory to God. We should willingly and joyfully proclaim His honor and glory.

⁹"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Our bodies are to be used as a vessel to glorify Christ. We are sanctified “set apart” in Christ every day.

What can we do to clear out the clutter in our life so that we can better live and serve Christ?

Application

Have you ever read The Very Hungry Caterpillar? The caterpillar had a hunger that could never be satisfied. But one day everything changed. He no longer crawled on the ground nor did he feel that intense hunger. Instead, he was fulfilled and his wings enabled him to fly. He was never created to remain a caterpillar; he was designed to be a beautiful butterfly. Like the caterpillar, we were never designed to remain hungry and unfulfilled. We were designed to live in a relationship with God through the sacrifice of Christ. We were designed to live set apart from the ways of a sinful world; we were set apart to become something greater.

Offer Thanks

Reflect on how your life has changed because of Christ. Thank Him for setting you free from the former way of life. Pray for the Lord to continue His good work.

Memorize

¹⁹Do you not know that your bodies are temples 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, honor God with your bodies” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

Walk Alongside Others

Making the daily choice to live a holy life is much easier when you walk alongside other believers. Surround yourself with others who also choose to live their lives for Christ.