

“Well, he (or she) will get over it!”

Yes, but at what cost?

## Isaiah 59:1–2

“Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save;  
Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities  
have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden  
*His* face from you, So that He will not hear.”

## Psalms 66:18

“If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.”

# Significance of Sin in Our Lives

1. Sin is repulsive to God
2. But God has a plan to address our sins
3. His grace provision is greater than our sins
4. But we cannot treat sin in a cavalier way
5. Sin has a significant affect on our lives

# Significance of Sin in Our Lives

6. It immediately ruptures our relationship with God (short-term)
7. It has long-term affects on our souls and our sp future
8. Tonight we are going to examine one of the long-term affects of sin in our lives

## 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

What does “Inheriting the Kingdom” mean?

## 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 fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”

After a casual reading of the passage what might be the possible interpretations if someone is committing these sins?

1. If an unbeliever, no chance of salvation

## 1 John 2:1–2

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins (and we do), we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”



After a casual reading of the passage what might be the possible interpretations if someone is committing these sins?

1. If an unbeliever, no chance of salvation
2. If a believer, possible loss of salvation

## John 10:28–30

“And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.”

The two previous interpretations might be considered possible if the meaning of the verb “inherit” is understood as “to enter.”

After a casual reading of the passage what might be the possible interpretations if someone is committing these sins?

1. If an unbeliever, no chance of salvation
2. If a believer, possible loss of salvation
3. If a believer, possible loss of rewards

Paul has introduced the topic of rewards

1 Cor 3:8, 14, 15

“Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor ... If anyone’s work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

# Background

The Apostle Paul is writing to *believers* at Corinth

Paul had “planted” the Corinthian church during his second missionary journey ca. 52 AD

The church at Corinth was not progressing, but was struggling with various problems

The text of the epistle of 1 Corinthians is a running commentary of Paul’s answers to a list of Corinthian church problems that had come to his attention

# 1 Corinthians 6

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Litigation, vv. 1–6



## 1 Corinthians 6:1–6

“1. Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous and not before the saints? 2. Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? 3. Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life? 4. So if you have law courts dealing with matters of this life, do you appoint them as judges who are of no account in the church? 5. I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, 6. but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers?”

# 1 Corinthians 6

Litigation, vv. 1–6

Believer wronging believer, vv. 7–8

## 1 Corinthians 6:7–8

“7. Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you, that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? 8. On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren.”

# 1 Corinthians 6

Litigation, vv. 1–6

Believer wronging believer, vv. 7–8

The unrighteous will not inherit the K of G, v. 9a

## 1 Corinthians 6:9a

“9a. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? “

# 1 Corinthians 6

Litigation, vv. 1–6

Believer wronging believer, vv. 7–8

The unrighteous will not inherit the K of G, v. 9a

Why? List of sins, vv. 9b–10

## 1 Corinthians 6:9b–10

“9b. Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 10. nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.”

# 1 Corinthians 6

What does “inherit the kingdom” mean?



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Paul knows his audience ... a “rough bunch”

Paul is addressing Christian conduct ... in short,

“Post-Salvation Sins”

What does Paul mean by the word unrighteous in v. 9?

unrighteous

**ἀδικος** (*ádikos*)

unrighteous

**ἄδικος** (*ádikos*)

not + justice = unjust, unrighteous; BDAG,  
“pertaining to acting in a way that is contrary to  
what is right; unjust, dishonest, untrustworthy”



Please observe ...

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Example: the adjective “dead” ... dead what??

dead tree ... dead fish ... dead party ... dead ones

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## 1. Rom 3:5, God ... “is not unrighteous”

“But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous (**ἀδίκος**), is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)”

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“5. But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous (**ἀδίκος**), is He? (I am speaking in human terms.)”

Notice, in Rom 3:5 **ἀδίκος** refers to quality ... the quality of God’s righteousness ... He is not unjust in His actions

# Paul uses **ἀδίκος** three times

## 2. 1 Cor 6:1, “go to law before the unrighteous”

“Does any one of you, when he has a case against his neighbor, dare to go to law before the unrighteous (**ἀδίκος**) and not before the saints?”



# Paul uses **ἀδίκος** three times

## 3. 1 Cor 6:9, “the unrighteous will not inherit”

“Or do you not know that the unrighteous (**ἀδίκος**) will not inherit the kingdom of God?”

# Paul uses **ἀδίκος** three times

1. Rom 3:5, God ... “is not unrighteous”
2. 1 Cor 6:1, “go to law before the unrighteous”
3. 1 Cor 6:9, “*the* unrighteous will not inherit”

Again, in Rom 3:5 *adikos* refers to quality, now we need to make that same determination in the other two verses

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Context must provide the answer

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4. Incest in 5:1
5. Immoral believers in 5:11

# Believers at Corinth

## 6. Law suits in 6:1

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9. Idolatry in 10:14

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6. Law suits in 6:1

7. Defrauding in 6:7

8. Immorality in 6:18; 7:2

9. Idolatry in 10:14

10. Drunkenness at the Lord's Table in 11:17

Are the “unrighteous” of v. 9 these same unrighteous believers Paul as been addressing throughout the entire book or those found in v. 1?

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Is it possible that these “unrighteous” are the same ones that are continuing to do wrong in vv. 7–8?

wronged

**ἀδικέω** (*adikéō*) (a cognate of **ἀδικος**)

to do wrong, injure, do harm; to act unjustly;  
1 Cor 6:7–8

## 1 Corinthians 6:7–8

(Revised to show direct relationship between verses)

“Now therefore it is already an utter failure for y’all that y’all go to law (have judgments) against one another. Why do y’all not rather ‘be wronged’ (**ἀδικέω**)? Why do y’all not rather be cheated? No, y’all yourselves are ‘doing wrong’ (**ἀδικέω**) and cheating, and you do these things to your brethren.”

## 1 Corinthians 6:7–9

(Revised to show direct relationship between verses)

“Now therefore it is already an utter failure for y’all that y’all go to law (have judgments) against one another. Why do y’all not rather ‘be wronged’ (**ἀδικέω**)? Why do y’all not rather be cheated? No, y’all yourselves are ‘doing wrong’ (**ἀδικέω**) and cheating, and you do these things to your brethren.”

Do y’all not know that ‘wrong doers’ (**ἀδίκος**) will not inherit the kingdom of God?”

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(Revised to show direct relationship between verses)

vv. 7–9, “Why not rather ‘be wronged’ (**ἀδικέω**)? ... y’all yourselves are ‘doing wrong’ (**ἀδικέω**) ... ‘wrong doers’ (**ἀδικοῦς**) will not inherit the kingdom of God ...”



# Versification

A minor point, but Paul did not break up his epistles into verses!!! This may come as a surprise to some, but Paul wrote his letters much like anyone else would write a letter ... one sentence immediately following another without a system of numbering. Let's see how that would appear.

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Do you now see how closely related these verses are and the unity of thought they are conveying? Believers are doing wrong and Paul will say there are CONSEQUENCES!

Paul is talking *to* believers and *about* believers

Two additional important points from the text

## Point 1

Paul uses an article with the noun in v. 1, but the article is absent in v. 9. When the article is absent we say the noun is “anarthrous.”

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In v. 1, the article is specifically identifying the ἄδικοι as the ones hearing the cases, the unbelieving judges, in contrast to the saints. Furthermore, the context, particularly v. 6, certainly identifies these judges as unbelievers.

However, in v. 9, the absence of the article focuses the emphasis on the nature or quality of the unrighteous, the “wrong doers.”



## Point 2

Paul has used the second-person plural throughout the book to indicate he is referring to the congregation as a whole.

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Paul is addressing believers in v. 9

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1. Verb and noun relationship in vv. 7–9
2. Use of the article in v. 1, but not in v. 9
3. Consistent use of the 2<sup>nd</sup> person plural, “you all”

Question



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How to understand, “Do not be deceived?”

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Are unbelievers going to inherit the kingdom?

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How to understand, “Do not be deceived?”

Are unbelievers going to inherit the kingdom?

Are believers going to lose their salvation?

Might carnal believers be jeopardizing their inheritance?

Does Paul have a specific word for unbeliever?

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Yes! And he used it in v. 6

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**ἄπιστος** (*á pistos*) meaning not faithful or believing

Does Paul have a specific word for unbeliever?

Yes! And he uses this word in v. 6

**ἄπιστος** (*á pistos*) meaning not faithful or believing

He uses this word eleven times in 1 Corinthians



The topic of inheritance in v. 9 leads us to our next subject ... the relationship between “unrighteous” and being an heir.