

## **Idolaters Revisited**

### **1 Corinthians 6:9**

Open your Bibles to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians and chapter 6. This morning we will read once again the first part of v.9.

Let me take us back to last Sunday morning. My sermon was on idolatry. I called a spade a spade. An idol is an idol is an idol no matter what the idol worshiper may call it. An idol by any other name would smell just as rank in the nostrils of God. God has never told me otherwise. I have never been given permission by God to redefine idols or idolatry or idolaters.

**“An idolater is anyone who worships a god of his or her own creation.**

**An idolater is anyone who worships a god created by another.**

**An idolater is anyone who bows at the feet or kisses the feet of any image, icon, or statue created by man.**

**An idolater is anyone who worships the object of deception created by those who preach another gospel and another Jesus.”**

**An idolater is anyone who worships a man-made image or icon.**

**An idolater is anyone who worships money.**

And, a cult is a cult is a cult, regardless of how popular that cult is and how far spread it is or how many friends I may have who belong to a cult.

Sin is sin is sin, regardless of how many friends I have who are living in any one particular sin. I have never been authorized by God to redefine sin. My friendship or acquaintance or your friendship or acquaintance with someone who is living in a particular sin or is a member of any cult like the Roman Catholic cult or Mormonism or Seventh Day Adventism or Jehovah’s Witnesses or Pentecostalism or Neo-Charismatics doesn’t save you or your friends or acquaintances. That is what I am calling “Friendship Salvation.”

**The Fallacy of Friendship Salvation.**

Many, many times I have been in conversation with people who have the idea that what the Bible says about homosexuality can’t be true

because, “But, I have many friends who are gay.” What! You believe that homosexuals will inherit the kingdom of God because they are your friends? Or members of the above named cults are right with God because they are your friends?” That is the fallacy of friendship salvation.

Because you have friends who live in homosexuality or practice a religion that says faith in Jesus isn't enough, you also need to do certain works if you want to go to heaven, you believe that somehow your acquaintance with them or your approval of their lifestyles makes them ok with God? *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?*

Open your Bibles to our text for our present study, 1 Corinthians chapter 6 and v.9. Idolatry is idolatry. Sin is sin. And the unrighteous will absolutely not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>9</sup> *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,*

<sup>10</sup> *nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10 NAU)*

Beloved, that may not be what some folks believe who go to church, but it is what God says to those who go to church.

“Stop being deceived” by those deceived people who practice and teach friendship salvation. Stop deceiving yourself by believing in friendship salvation.

“But I have many friends who are gay, and I love them. I just can't believe that God will send them to hell. They are so sweet and loving.”

“But I have many friends who belong to the Roman Catholic church and some who are members of the Seventh Day Adventist church. I can't believe that you think they might go to hell.”

Friendship salvation is another gospel and another Jesus and another God.

<sup>6</sup> *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;*

<sup>7</sup> which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!

<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

<sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ. (Gal. 1:6-10 NAU)

A God-called pastor is a bond-servant of Christ and not of man. It is very, very tempting to please men in my preaching. But that would mean that I have abandoned my first duty to the church. And that is to “preach the word.” <sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

That would mean that I no longer have to be diligent in my Bible studies and I no longer have to do my best to rightly divide the word of truth. I can emulate men like Joel Osteen and Steven Furtick and the pope. <sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free... from the deception fostered on billions who have believed the lie.

And how can we know the lie? Here’s what Jesus said before He said you shall know the truth: <sup>31</sup> So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, **then** you are truly disciples of Mine;

<sup>32</sup> and **you**, (those who know the word), will know the truth, and the truth will make **you** free.” (Jn. 8:31-32 NAU)

My desire is and has been for 47 years now to know Him and to make Him known. My desire is and has been for 47 years to know His written word and to preach it to those before whom I stand, wherever

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that may be. And my desire for you, my beloved at Eastway Baptist Church, is for you to know Him and to know His written word.

This is the word of God, a word from heaven for all of us. This is the gospel and v.11 proves that.

*<sup>9</sup> 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,*

*<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor. 6:9-10 NAU)*

*<sup>11</sup> 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. (1 Cor. 6:11 NAU)*

And the answer is for the church, at least it should be, “Yes, we do know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God.” “And, we will stop being deceived by knowing the truth that sets us free.”

Friendship salvation is believing and perhaps preaching a false gospel and a false Jesus that deceivingly says because I like these unrighteous people they must be liked by God as well. But, beloved, friendship salvation is doing our lost friends and acquaintances a great and horrific disservice. We are telling them, “you’re ok, and I’m ok, and everybody is ok just as they are.” And that is another gospel and it preaches another Jesus, not the one’s found in the written word of God.

*<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!*

*<sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!*

And that is the horrific disservice we are doing those who believe and share friendship salvation.

Jesus said this and He meant it, “*I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.*”

And the God-called author of the book of the Acts wrote this, <sup>12</sup>  
*"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under  
heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."  
(Acts 4:12 NAU)*

Do you know an idolater? Do you know anyone who believes in  
friendship salvation? What can you tell these people now?

Heavenly Father, in the name of Your only begotten Son, Jesus  
Christ our Lord and Savior, whom you raised from the dead, we rejoice  
knowing that You graciously called us and saved us and justified us and  
glorified us through faith in Your Son. May this be the good news we  
declare to our friends and acquaintances.