

# Respectable Sins

*Read the Scripture passages below, and do your best to answer the questions.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9–10** <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

1. Looking at the list of sins in 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, which sin in each pair below would you consider worse? (Circle one.)
  - a. Adultery or theft
  - b. Homosexuality or drunkenness
  - c. Reviling (insulting someone) or coveting
2. Does this passage say that any of the sins is better or worse than the others?
3. Have you ever committed any of these sins? (Consider that looking with lust is the same as adultery [Matthew 5:28], and theft is theft, regardless of the value of the object.)
4. What is the punishment for committing even one of the sins? See 1 Corinthians 6:10.
5. Is there such a thing as an acceptable or respectable sin?

**1 Corinthians 6:11** 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.

6. How does 1 Corinthians 6:11 give you hope in Christ?

# Respectable Sins - Teacher Guide

## Instructions

In our culture, people typically identify certain sins as more significant than others. There is no doubt that some sins are more obvious and even carry stronger consequences for individuals and societies, but is murder, for example, a sin that separates us from God more than the sins of gossip or anger? We need to make sure that we are examining these ideas from a biblical perspective. *Have the students do the Respectable Sins activity alone, in small groups, or as a class—whichever suits your students best.*

*Read the Scripture passages below and do your best to answer the questions below.*

**1 Corinthians 6:9–11** <sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> 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. Looking at the list of sins in verses 9–10, which sin in each pair below would you consider worse? (Circle one.)
  - a. Adultery or theft
  - b. Homosexuality or drunkenness
  - c. Reviling (insulting someone) or coveting
2. Does this passage say that any of the sins is better or worse than the others?
3. Have you ever committed any of these sins? (Consider that looking with lust is the same as adultery [Matthew 5:28], and theft is theft, regardless of the value of the object.)
4. What is the punishment for committing even one of the sins? See verse 10.
5. Is there such a thing as an acceptable or respectable sin?
6. How does verse 11 give you hope in Christ?

## Wrap Up

Lot had been surrounded by people who were engaged in a lifestyle of terrible sin. It seems that he was willing to tolerate much of the sin of the people and chose to live in their midst. Many Christians tend to make lists—even if only in their minds—of sins that they tolerate and those that make them cringe. This can be a dangerous attitude when it comes to our own growth to be more like Christ. I hope this lesson causes you to think about sin the way the Bible explains it.

Jesus did not pay more on the cross for homosexuality or murder than he did for gossip or lust. All sin is treason against God, but we cannot forget that his justice has been satisfied by the merciful act of the Son on the cross. Though Christians deserve the wrath of God for their sin, Christ has paid the penalty, and God's mercy is shown to sinners. There is no need to fear God's judgment falling on you if you are in Christ because he has extended mercy to you. His perfect love casts out all fear of torment and judgment (Romans 8:1–2; 1 John 4:17–19). Are you living in light of the mercy of God?