

"Your Body Is The Temple Of The Holy Spirit"

1 Cor 6:12-20

Celebrating the Centrality of Christ in the Local Assembly

The entire argument and/or theme is built on the idea that we, individually and collectively, are the Lord's. And we are not at liberty to live our lives independent of Him. We are not at liberty to destroy that which God has made. This is something we should already know (vv. 15, 16, 19).

Let us consider how Paul wraps up the area of unbiblical morality/sexuality. He makes several significant points. Paul's opening statement is interesting.

I. As a general rule, "All things are lawful for me." (v. 12)

The two statements are in parallel in verse 12. The first parts are together as are the following statements. In the following statements the second expands on the first, "Not all things are profitable . . . I will not be mastered by anything." Let us consider the first part.

Although in Christ the believer is completely free, the Corinthians made this to mean even freedom to the extent of incest and vicious lawsuits. Yet, despite its perversion, God has given us all things to enjoy and in so doing to return thanks (1 Tm 6:17). There is richness to the creative activity of God.

The Corinthian fellowship was made up of people who were slaves to sexual sin. Their addictions had woven themselves into their appetites. They hungered for sex, they thirsted for it. Every waking moment was consumed by the quest to appease the beast within. They had abandoned themselves to it and were now in its unrelenting, breath-robbing, life-stealing grip.

Yet the power of the cross was able to break its chains.

II. "Not all things are profitable" (v.12a).

Grace is not a license for lasciviousness or a doorway to promiscuity. Just because I can does not mean I should. The qualifiers help us to understand the nature of the grace received. Grace opens before us a fertile field of activity. We may enjoy the richness of God's world and the diversity of His people. **Grace is not only a green light of opportunity, but a yellow light of caution and a red light of abstinence.**

Grace does "instruct us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age (Ti 2:12)."

If we do not master our appetites and desires, we will become their slave.

III. "The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord" (vv.13-16).

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The word immorality is **porneia**. It refers to any illicit sex. Our thinking here has been skewed and perverted by our society at large.

Many within our own generation and in the generation we are training do not have a biblical view concerning physical intimacy. We are designed for monogamy both physically and spiritually. We have no right to be spiritual whoremongers and engage in spiritual prostitution.

The question raised in verse 15 expects a positive answer, “You do know this, do you not?” He does this in verses 16 and 19 as well. In the marriage covenant I have become one with my wife (v. 16). This union is a picture of my union with Christ. We have no right to give what is not ours to something that will destroy us. It is wrong and it is the Lord that has been defrauded and robbed.

IV. “You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (vv. 17-20).

The redemptive activity of God does not save pieces or parts of the individual. The cross-work changes everything. All aspects of the individual are delivered from the power of darkness and brought into the kingdom of God’s dear Son.

The exhortation in verse 18 is emphatic, “Flee immorality.” As individual believers and as a church at large, we have been redeemed (v. 20). The language suggests that we have been purchased from the market place of sin and now have a new owner.

Our freedom from sin is a freedom to Christ. We left sin’s mastery only to be mastered by Christ. There is liberty in being addicted to nothing or no one but Christ. May God continue to move us in our slavery to Him. May our joy be found in our bondage to His cross.