

"Holiness of the Believer"

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Last 2 ACM Mtgs > HOLINESS – Set Apart, Unique, Different, Highly Unusual
HOLINESS of God & Jesus – FITTING Word – There is NO ONE Like the Lord
Holiness of Believer – Honestly, HARD to See – More HYPOCRITE than Holy
We NOT very Different from World – Sometime Church is WORSE than World
See more of Character of Jesus in those who Do NOT CLAIM to Follow Him

1:1 Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our
brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified
in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call
upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: 1 Corinthians 1.1,2

SAINTS = Holy Ones in CORINTH! Is that a JOKE? Corinth – Immoral City

Slang of 1st C world – “Corinthianize” = Have SEX

HETEROSEXUAL AND HOMOSEXUAL PERVERSION

Out of MORAL CESSPOOL Jesus calls Men & Women: Freedom, Forgiveness

GREEKS overly focused on the soul / PROVERB "the body is a tomb"

EPICLETUS - "I am a poor soul shackled to a corpse"

CORINTHIAN CHURCH - STILL HELD TO SOME GREEK VIEWS -

SALVATION is PROCESS - GRADUALLY LEARN to THINK BIBLICALLY

SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF PASSAGE - teaching on need for sexual purity

CORINTH - MORAL CESSPOOL / "Corinthian" = SEXUALLY IMMORAL

WM BARCLAY - on pervasive grip of homosexuality in Roman World

"This was the sin which swept like a cancer through Greek life and which, from
Greece, invaded Rome. We can scarcely realize how riddled the ancient world
was with it. Even so great a man as Socrates practiced it; Plato's dialogue "The
Symposium" is always said to be one of the greatest works on love in the world,
but its subject was not natural, but unnatural love. Fourteen out of the first fifteen
Roman Emperors practiced unnatural vice. At the time Paul wrote this letter Nero

was emperor. He had taken a boy called Sporus and had him castrated. He had then married him with a full-marriage ceremony and took him home in procession to his palace and lived with him as his wife. With an incredible viciousness Nero had himself married a man named Pythagoras and called him his husband...In this particular vice in the time of the early church the world was lost to shame."

WE HAVE REALLY ADVANCED IN USA TODAY -
good work of State Supreme Court and our politicians
OPPORTUNITY for MEN to MARRY MEN NOT JUST BE FOR EMPERORS
TO those with SUCH PERVERSE VIEW OF their BODIES, PAUL RESPONDS
CHURCH - MOSTLY GENTILE BACKGROUND - PERVERSE SEXUALITY
some within church at Corinth had no problem continuing to frequent the
numerous prostitutes of Corinth - OLD WAY OF LIFE

1. Corinthian Excuses to Sin

OFFERED EXCUSES - AS PEOPLE DO - FOR THEIR SINFUL BEHAVIOR

a. Misunderstood Freedom

{12} "Everything is permissible for me" but not everything is beneficial.
"Everything is permissible for me"--but I will not be mastered by anything.

QUOTES PERHAPS FROM THEIR LETTER TO HIM or PAUL'S TEACHING

"Everything is permissible for me"

REGARDING MORAL NON-ESSENTIALS - worship days, meat, drink

WE HAVE BEEN MADE FREE IN CHRIST - free from sin, not to sin

1 Corinthians 10:23 "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial.
"Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive.

1 Corinthians 8:9 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak.

Jn 8:32 you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free

John 8:34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

POSSIBLE WHAT we THINK we are DOING FREELY Really ENSLAVES

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

FREEDOM IS NOT TO BE FOR SELF, BUT FOR OTHERS

REAL QUESTION - NOT whether something is RIGHT - does it EDIFY?

PARADOX of GOSPEL - PERFECT FREEDOM is BEING SLAVE of CHRIST

PARAPHRASE "all things are allowed to me, but I will not allow anything to get control of me"

DELIBERATE CHOICE TO RESTRAIN OUR FREEDOM FOR GOSPEL

b. Misunderstood the Spirit & Body

NOW PEOPLE OF SPIRIT / RISEN W/ X / LIVE ON A HIGHER PLANE
WHAT DO W/ BODIES WILL NOT EFFECT THEIR SPIRITUAL LIFE

{13} "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food"--

JUST LIKE FOOD PASSES THRU AND OUT THE SYSTEM - NO IMPACT

SEX IS NORMAL PHYSICAL FUNCTION - SO WHY NOT USE as PLEASE

WARREN WIERSBE "They treated sex as an appetite to be satisfied and not as a gift to be cherished and used carefully. Sensuality is to sex what gluttony is to eating; both are sinful and both bring disastrous consequences."

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

PHYSIOLOGICALLY INCORRECT - you are what you eat - DIET MATTERS

MORALLY INCORRECT - sex act is not just bodily - WHOLE PERSON

PROSTITUTES WALKING ONE MORNING UP HAILI STREET -
were physically exhausted AND emotionally shattered - IN TEARS

NOT JUST BODILY ACT - PEOPLE are BODY & SOUL in HARMONY

"but God will destroy them both" GOD IS LORD OF BODY AND SOUL

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

2. Christian View of the Body

PAUL RESPONDS WITH BIBLICAL THEOLOGY > PRACTICAL

THEOLOGY of the BODY - ETERNAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT OUR BODIES

SPEAKS TO ALL OF US > No matter our SINS

APPLICATION - diet, smoking, drinking, exercise, rest - ABORTION

a. Created by the Father vs. 13b,14

BY CONTRAST - CHRISTIAN VIEW OF BODY - CREATION OF GOD

DIGNITY OF BODY- fearfully & wonderfully made in the IMAGE of God

v. 13b The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

JUST LIKE FOOD IS NEEDED FOR STOMACH - OUR BODY NEEDS GOD

WHEN WE ARE SICK - WE NEED PRAYER and MEDICATION - BOTH!

Romans 12:1,2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God

14} By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.

CONTRA Gk VIEW SALVATION - ONLY SPIRITUAL - immortality of soul

DEATH - RELEASE OF THE SOUL // bird released from its cage

APOSTLE'S CREED "I believe in the resurrection of the body"

NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH / CREATION / RESURRECTION BODIES

b. United to the Son WE SEE THE DIGNITY OF THE BODY IN CHRIST

v. 13 "the Lord is for the body"

INCARNATION - GOD became man, fullness of deity dwells in body

CROSS - Died a real death, God in human flesh

RESURRECTION - Sown in weakness, Raised incorruptible
"God did not allow His holy one to see corruption"

ASCENSION - He rose bodily, there is a Man in Heaven now

CHURCH - the church is the body of Christ

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

EUCCHARIST - we partake of the body of Christ - as a Sacrament

RETURN OF CHRIST He will come again, in the body, as He was seen

RESURRECTION BODY OF BELIEVERS - will be like the risen Christ

Philippians 3:21 GOD will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

{15} Do 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! {16} Do 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." {17} But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

VERY TIGHTLY WOVEN ARGUMENT SET FORTH HERE BY PAUL

MEASURE OF OUR ONENESS w/ X - OUR BODIES ARE HIS LIMBS

WE ARE UNITED TO HIM - LIT. PHRASE "glued together"

PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL UNION // Husband & Wife = X and church

BY CONTRAST OTHERS CHOOSE TO BE UNITED TO PROSTITUTES

Relationships MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE- You CAN'T Do Both - CHOICE

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4 we instructed you how to live in order to please God...by the authority of the Lord Jesus. {3} It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; {4} that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable

OS GUINNESS "This is the ideal that judges all Christian sexual ethics in the Scriptures. This is what is behind every prohibition in this area. Why should men not sleep with animals? Why is adultery wrong? Why are homosexual practices wrong? Why is premarital intercourse wrong? Simply because there is no true oneness, thus, there should not be one flesh either...the problem is there is intimacy without intention, there was communion without commitment. It should be positively affirmed that virginity is one of the most creative, releasing, purifying, and beautiful gifts which can be brought to Christian marriage. If either partner is unable to bring such a contribution, their whole person is impaired - yet not irretrievable, because the redemptive power of Christ himself is able to make all things new

PAUL HAS A MESSAGE ABOUT LIVING WILLS, LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ASSISTED SUICIDE BY SO-CALLED PHYSICIANS

Philippians 1:20-24 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21} For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. {22} If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! {23} I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; {24} but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

WE'RE ALIVE to SERVE GOD - and WHEN our EARTHLY SERVICE IS UP HE WILL TAKE US ON TO BEGIN OUR HEAVENLY SERVICE

WE'RE NOT to PROLONG our LIVES MECHANICALLY by Life SUPPORT, BEYOND the TIME our BODY COULD HOPE to RECOVER and REVIVE

NOR ARE WE TO END LIFE BECAUSE SOME DR. KEVORIKIAN DETERMINES WE ARE NO LONGER FIT TO LIVE

c. Filled by the Spirit OUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF HOLY SPIRIT

CONTRAST TO PAGAN TEMPLES OF THE FALSE GODS OF CORINTH

19} Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?

WORD "your" is PLURAL // WORDS "body" & "temple" SINGULAR
PAUL DESCRIBING BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

CONDUCT of INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AFFECTS Spiritual LIFE of Church

GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
ALL INVOLVED in WHAT we do WITH OUR BODIES "body is for the Lord"

Take BIBLE SERIOUSLY: NOT BECAUSE we're PRUDES or HAVE NO Fun
GREATEST JOY IS FULFILLING WONDERFUL PURPOSES of GOD for US

1 Corinthians 3:16,17 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

YOU CANNOT MISUSE YOUR BODY - sex, overwork, health, diet
AND FAIL TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES

Galatians 6:7,8 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

SAD LIFE to LIVE with CONSEQUENCES of FORGIVEN SINS
FORGIVEN BUT NEVER FORGET

FLEE - HABITUAL ACTION don't reason w/ evil impulses, resist them

18} Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body.

RUN as if LEAVING A BURNING HOUSE - SAVE SOUL FROM BURNING

FATHER - MAKER OF LIFE, INCLUDING THOSE YET TO BE BORN
SON, LORD JESUS - BECAME MAN, SANCTIFIED HUMAN FLESH
SPIRIT - WHO FILLS US, AND ENABLES US TO SERVE THE LORD

3. Complete Transformation in Christ

a. Danger SERIOUS, ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

v. 9 Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Hebrews 2:1-3 We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away...{3} how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation?

Hebrews 6:4-6 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, {5} who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age, {6} if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

Hebrews 10:26,27 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

WHY SUCH WARNINGS?- same sinful heart, live in same evil world

v. 9b Do not be deceived FALSE CONFIDENCE IN OURSELVES

1 Cor 10:12,13 So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

b. Description UGLY SHOPPING LIST of our FALLEN HUMAN NATURE

v. 9b Neither the sexually immoral - ANY KIND OF SEXUAL SIN

nor idolaters SHOWS IMMORALITY OF THEIR HEATHEN WORSHIP
PERVERSE SEXUALITY HAD BECOME THEIR GODS - FALSE WORSHIP

nor adulterers MARRIED PERSONS HAVING SEXUAL RELATIONS - OF
ANY KIND - OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE

nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders

AGGRESSOR & PASSIVE PARTICIPANT in the Male HOMOSEXUAL ACT

{10} nor thieves CORINTH FILLED WITH PETTY THIEVES, PILFERERS

nor the greedy NOT SATISFIED WITH LIFE OR CONTENT IN THE LORD

nor drunkards CANNOT GET THRU DAY, OR WEEK, OR MONTH W/OUT

nor slanderers "RAILER" ALWAYS SOMETHING NEGATIVE TO SAY

nor swindlers CLEVERLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OTHERS

IS DESCRIPTION OF ANCIENT CORINTH OR TODAY??

IF THIS IS YOUR LIFESTYLE - THESE ARE YOUR VICES - ADDICTED TO THESE THINGS YOU will NOT inherit the kingdom of God.

c. Deliverance IN CHRIST WE HAVE BEEN SET FREE

TRINITARIAN FORMULA - POSSIBLE BAPTISMAL DECLARATION

v. 11 But you were washed, BY THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

you were sanctified, SET APART FROM SIN FOR GOD BY HOLY SPIRIT

you were justified DECLARED NOT GUILTY -- ACQUITTED

ADVOCATE SHED His RIGHTEOUS BLOOD to WIN Your PARDON Justly

in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

MARVELOUS DESCRIPTION OF REDEEMING GRACE of GOD in CHRIST

2 Corinthians 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

1 Timothy 1:15-17 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst.

ONE OF THE MOST WONDERFUL PHRASES IN SCRIPTURE

{11} And that is what some of you were.

CONTRA - ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS "I will always be an alcoholic"

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

ANY CHURCH SAYS THESE WORDS DO NOT APPLY HAS 2 PROBLEMS

1) NOT HONEST ABOUT SIN - we act like Pharisees not publicans

2) NOT EVANGELIZING SINNERS - these are the kind of people the church is put in the world to reach

CHURCH IS NOT A COUNTRY CLUB FOR BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE
IT IS A RESCUE CENTER FOR DYING SINNERS

v. 19 You are not your own; {20} you were bought at a price.

IF YOU KNOW JESUS - BELONG TO GOD BODY AND SOUL

IF YOU WALK WITH HIM - THERE IS NOTHING MORE COMFORTING
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS YOU ARE SECURELY IN HIS CARE

IF NOT WALKING W/ HIM - THERE'S NOTHING MORE TERRIFYING
YOU ARE MISUSING GOD'S PROPERTY as you ABUSE SELF - JUDGE

"Therefore honor God with your body." WORDS WITH GREAT URGENCY

HONORING GOD WITH YOUR BODY IS IMPERATIVE

SINCE IT IS URGENT - LET THERE BE NO DELAY IN OBEYING

IF YOU DON'T KNOW X - GIVE SELF TO HIM NOW - BODY AND SOUL

IF YOU DO - YOU GIVE SELF TO HIM - THAT OTHERS MIGHT KNOW