

DO NO HARM / Sunday, July 6, 2014

Unifying Topic: GLORIFY GOD WITH YOUR BODY

Lesson Text

- I. **Anything I Want** (1 Corinthians 6:12-16)
- II. **Committed To Christ** (1 Corinthians 6: 17-20)

The Main Thought: What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? (1 Corinthians 6:19, KJV).

Unifying Principle: Personal, moral, and physical purity are beneficial to the community. How does the behavior of one person affect the whole community?

Lesson Aim: To cause students to embrace that Christ, rather than us, has ownership of our bodies, and His title deed requires that we be physically and spiritually pure.

Life aim: To cause students to practice a life that connects what they do with their bodies with their spiritual relationship in Christ.

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- 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.
- 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.
- 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.
- 6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.
- 6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.
- 6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.
- 6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.
- 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
- 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

HISTORY:

In the 5th Chapter, Paul has introduced the subject of judging when dealing with immorally in the church; disorder in the church. A man was having an affair with his mother (or stepmother) and the church members were trying to ignore the situation. Paul shows them that the responsibility for judging, lies with the assembly. They had a responsibility to maintain standards or morality found in God's Word. We're not talking about judging everybody. We're talking about judging flagrant (*deliberate and brazen*) sin that opposes His holiness and has a dangerous influence on the lives of other believers. He said to "remove the evil cancer" because it will soon infect others. Paul goes on to say that it wasn't their job to judge outsiders, it's God's job; but as long as they were members of the church sinning in this manner, they were to deal with the members in such a way (1 Corinthians 5:1-12).

In the 6th Chapter, Paul now goes to show that even in matters of civil dispute, the responsibility for settling such matters lies with the leadership of the local church. Paul develops the matter by first introducing the problem—Christians suing one another, (v.1)—an inquiry. Then in verses 2 and 3—an interpretation, he shows the absurdity (*ridiculousness*) of stooping to a pagan judge to adjudicate (*settle; resolve*) some matter between two brethren in Christ. Believers being members of the Corinthian church are bringing *lawsuits* against each other. Finally, in verses 4-11, Paul traces the biblical principles underlying his instructions—an inconsistency.

1. Can they at least find one person wise enough to decide; settle these arguments?
2. Why not just accept mistreatment and leave it alone; it's far more honorable to the Lord!
3. Don't you know that the unrighteous shall not enter the kingdom of God?

They had to remember that there was a time when some of them were just like those they were judging—having immoral behavior and such... but now their sins were washed away; set-apart for God, and He accepted them because of what Christ and the Spirit has done for them (1 Corinthians 6:4-11).

LESSON:

1 Corinthians 6:12-16 Anything I Want

6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Apparently the church was quoting and misapplying their understanding by saying

frequently "*I can do anything if Christ has not said no or all things are lawful for me.*" Some Christians in Corinth were excusing many of their sins by saying 1) Christ had taken away all sin, and so they had complete freedom to live as they pleased or 2) what they were doing was not strictly forbidden by Scripture. Paul's answer to both these excuses were: 1) While Christ has taken away our sin, this does not give us freedom to go on doing what we know is wrong. Scripture specifically forbids many sins. 2) Some actions are not sinful in themselves, but they are not appropriate because they can control our lives and lead us away from God. Anything we do that hurts rather than help others are not right. All things are not wise, some things enslave; they do not build self-image and self-respect. No man is to become the slave to anything on this earth; he is to control all things and to be enslaved by none of these: not food, drink, drugs, substance, desire, urge, or anything else.

6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. In the matter of eating, God has given us an appetite for food and stomachs to digest it. For example, it is helpful to eat fish; it is unprofitable to eat poison berries. And our appetites shouldn't control us. We should not eat more than we need. It is also advisable to keep active for the sake of the body; it is harmful to lie around and become inactive. Don't place so much importance on eating, because some day God will do away with both stomachs and food. The point is: the body is not to lose control and give in to indulgence. Now, concerning fornication and immorality of the body, it was an acceptable practice within Paul's day, and the practice was carried over into the church by some of its members. Just as the body desires food and must have food for normal functioning; the body was really made for the Lord, not for fornication and sexual gratification. Since God created the body of man, the body was designed for the Lord, and the Lord for the body, which means the body is the Lord's dwelling place. The present body is temporary, but the immortal body with the Lord is permanent and eternal. "*For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality*" 1Cor.15:53 ESV.

6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. This relationship will never perish. Paul is referring to the believer's body to be changed, raised, glorified, and made heavenly. God is able to raise our bodies up by His power, just as He's done for the Lord Jesus Christ. "*He that raised Christ from the dead, shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you*" Rom.8:11.

1 Corinthians 6: 17-20 Committed To Christ

6:15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. ¹This verse is speaking of how bad it is for a Christian to commit a sin of the body, because it includes the house of the Holy Spirit in that sin. We have been bought with a price and therefore our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. All of us are individual parts making up the body of Christ. And while the believer's body is a spiritual temple in which the Spirit of Christ lives, the body is not designed to be the member of an harlot, nor of any other immoral partner. The goddess Aphrodite was in Corinth. It employed more than a thousand prostitutes, and sex was part of the worship ritual. Paul states that even if it was popular in that culture, it was forbidden if you were Christians! Sexual sin not only harms and controls, but also perverts God's plan and purpose for the bodies of His people! We are to be in union with the Lord!

6:16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. As if the Corinthians didn't know. Paul had to reaffirm the purpose of their bodies. Joining with an harlot was not alright. We are members of Christ; representatives of Him on this earth, therefore, we are not to be joined to an harlot, or any illicit partner. This sexual sin connects their bodies and they become one body, which makes it perverted and unholy. This is not like marriage when their body is joined to their mate. In marriage this kind of union would be a holy union stamped by God. Sexual relationship establishes a spiritual bond. The two become one flesh. Part of your being is given to that person, and it means that a Christian who commits sexual immorality involves his Lord.

6:17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. The connections of these two verses show that in the above verse, there is a connection of one body and this verse shows that there is a connection of one spirit; one is physical (above), the other is spiritual (latter). We are joined unto the Lord in salvation and it involves the Person of the Holy Spirit whom the believer receives. Our spirit connecting with His Spirit brings about the highest unity—with the Lord.

6:18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. Make it your habit to flee from "*fornication*" (*Sex outside of marriage is a sin against your own body*). One should

¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/1corinthians/09.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net-sundayschool.html>

not stay around to reason about it or debate the matter, to see if there is another maneuver around it. Don't entertain even the thought. You remember Joseph fleeing from Potiphar's wife? That's what this scripture is saying. Why? - Because, no other sin affects the body as this one does.

1. *It lowers the person to the level of an animal.* It declares that life is to be lived on the level of passion and instinct, ignoring the life of the spirit.
2. *It looks upon the other person only as an instrument—* A tool to satisfy urges and passions. It ignores the satisfaction and peace of heart and mind with the Lord.
3. *It corrupts the temple of God.* The body belongs to Christ, therefore, if a believer commits immorality, he is joining the very body of Christ with an harlot.
4. *Man's basic nature is affected and disturbed.* His love, loyalty, and life are not focused, they are scattered and it causes reactions in his body.
5. *He soon feels and senses guilt when he is all alone thinking about his life.* He may not call it guilt but may say I feel bad. Because God's Spirit lives there, he triggers that sense and awareness that things are not right.

Other sins (*like thievery and lying*) may profane only the outer courts of the temple (outside *the body*); but this sin penetrates with its deadly foulness into the very Holy of Holies (*the inner man living within; the Holy Ghost, bringing with it a peculiar type of filthiness that defiles the temple*). The sin is against your own body which is the temple of the Holy Ghost.

6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?— The Holy Ghost comes from God to live within our bodies. The price has been paid; the price of the blood of Jesus dying on the cross, which makes us not even own these bodies we live in. Our bodies belong to God when we accepted Him as Lord and Savior!

6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Because of this price paid, we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit which He (Jesus) so freely gave His life for; didn't ask us to pay anything. We are not to use our bodies as instruments of sin.

SUMMARY:

Paul had to tell the Corinthians that they could not do everything that was lawful for them because some things would not be beneficial for them. If you eat which you are free to do, but too much of a good thing brings you into bondage to that thing. Paul lets them know to have self-control. The meat is for the belly and the belly for the meat, but one day it will be destroyed by the Lord. As far as sexual immorality; fornication is concerned, it is not for the body, but the Lord is for the body. Although God is able to destroy the body, he is able to raise it up by His own power, just as He raised Christ from the dead. Paul wanted them to know that their bodies are members of Christ, not instruments of sin of an harlot! God forbids this! If they join to an harlot then their bodies become one in the flesh (**vv.12-17**).

But when you are joined unto the Lord you become one in spirit, therefore, flee sexual immorality or fornication. The sin outside the body is not life the sin of committing fornication, because you are sinning against your own body. The body is to be the temple of the Holy Ghost who lives in you, from God. There was no greater price paid for our bodies than Jesus dying and shedding His blood on the cross, making these bodies His possession. And by Him living in our bodies, we are to glorify Him in our bodies and in our spirits which He possesses (**vv.18-20**).

APPLICATION:

We harm our bodies in sexual sin. We glorify God by not harming our bodies in sexual sin! Where will you carry God?