

Freedom vs. License

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Review

- Chapters 1-4 deal with the sin of prejudice and exclusivity
- Chapter 5 – Paul addresses the toleration of public sexual immorality within the church body
- Chapter 6: 1-11 Paul addresses the culture of suing a brother in Christ

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

[12] “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. [13] “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. [14] And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. [15] Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! [16] Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

[17] But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. [18] Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. [19] Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Road Map

- 1) **The argument for freedom of the Flesh**
- 2) **The Spiritual Design for the Body**
- 3) **The Perversion vs. the Divine Purpose**

1) The argument for freedom of the Flesh

“All things are lawful for me...”

Ver 11 “...you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

“...*Christian liberty is not license.*” (David Jackman, *Let's Study 1 Corinthians*)

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

1) The argument for freedom of the Flesh

“Not all things are helpful (beneficial)”

1 Cor 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

“...I will not be dominated by anything.”

Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

1) The argument for freedom of the Flesh

“Food is meant for the stomach, and the stomach for food”

- Attributed to the writings of Plato
- Used as a justification for hedonism

2) The Spiritual Design for the Body

1 Cor 6:13 “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other.

1 Cor 6:14 “The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

1 Cor 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?”

2) The Spiritual Design for the Body

1 Cor 6:14 “And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.”

James 1:7 ...every good gift and every perfect gift comes from God.

- Physical intimacy inside the confines of marriage is a good and perfect gift from God.

Exodus 20:14 – The Commandment forbidding Adultery

3) The Perversion vs. The Divine Purpose

1 Cor 6:15-18 [15] Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! [16] Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” [17] But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. [18] Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

3) The Perversion vs. The Divine Purpose

A Lesson in the consequences of physical intimacy

- Physical intimacy is an earthly model of the nature of our intimacy with Christ
- It was what we were created for!
- *“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.” ver 17*

3) The Perversion vs. The Divine Purpose

You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (Ver 19-20)

God created us. He knows best what would make us happy.

Would Adam and Eve been happier living in the Garden of Eden or in the fallen world?

Wrapping it Up

“All things are lawful for me”

- Just because I can do it, does not mean I should do it.

Paul is exhorting the Corinthians that their salvation was not purchased for the freedom of hedonism

We were created for intimate relationship with God

- We lost that in the Garden
- It was reestablished, through Christ, on the Cross!

