**I Corinthians 6:9-20**

***Your Body...God's Temple***

Introduction

1. *“It’s my body, I can do as I please.”* What if it’s not your body?

2. In I Corinthians 6:9-20 in our sexually permissive society with the church following suit, Paul delivers a message that needs to be heard. *It’s not your body!*

*“It’s my body, I can do as I please.”* What if it’s not your body?

**I. HIS PURIFICATION 6:9-11**

 ***A. The Prohibition 9, 10***

**1. The Law** *Unrighteousness shall not enter the kingdom of God*

The prohibition is also given in (Gal. 5:21)…*they who practice such things shall not*

 *enter the kingdom of God.* Christians can commit some real ugly sins. Is it their

 identity? Is that their way of life with no repentance? Are you sure salvation has

 taken place?

 **2. The List** Do not act like lost people. Note the 10 different classes who *shall not*

 *inherit the kingdom of God*.

1. Many of the classes are sexual in nature: *fornicators (all types of sexual sin), adulterers (unfaithful in a marriage relationship), effeminate (perhaps the female type in a homosexual relationship), abusers of themselves with mankind (homosexual relationship).* All of this was accepted in society. Fourteen or fifteen Roman Emperors were homosexual. Plato and Socrates are believed to have been homosexual.
2. *Covetous, Thieves, Drunkards, Slanderers, Swindlers…shall not inherit the kingdom of God…*This is nearly the same list that is given for *brothers* who the Body is to refuse to have fellowship (5:10, 11). These were accepted and normal in the Corinthian culture. Christians can commit any sin of a non-Christian.

(6:9, 10) is a person’s character. There is no conviction, no remorse. Christians can commit some ugly sins. If there is no repentance or endeavor to change, has salvation taken place? *Whoever abides in Him does not habitually practice sin; whosoever habitually practices sin hath not seen Him, neither knows Him. (I Jn. 3:6).*

1. If there is freedom in Christ, why live and act like people who do not know Jesus?

 ***B. The Position 11***

**1. This Is What They Were…***and such were some of you*

**2. This Is What They Are** There is a new identity: *Washed…*cleansed from all sin.

 *Sanctified…*set apart to God and for God. You can’t do what you want. You’ve

 changed ownership. *Justified…*means, to declare righteous or freed from sin.

 **3. This Is Who They Represent…***in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ…name* speaks of

 character, of who He is. What Would Jesus Do? *By the Spirit of God…*there is a new

 power residing in every believer to perform that which is asked. **If God can do that, it’s**

 **God who can set you free!!**

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**II. HIS PROPERTY 6:12-18**

1. ***The Principle 12***

Sexual sin was not considered ‘sin’ by philosophers, teachers or society. It was only those narrow-minded believers trying to spoil everyone’s fun. They did not call it SIN!

1. *All* doesn’t mean, all. God has already listed some things that were not *lawful.* Here it is in a general sense. God has an eternal moral principle. *All things are lawful*…He is not under bondage to works or legalism. The Christian life isn’t a series of ‘don’ts’. There is liberty in Christ Jesus, but not license.
2. Even though we are free from legalistic demands, we have a moral obligation to God. Here he is talking about a particular use of the body. *Fornication* was the common sin in Corinth. Their argument: *God made the body with a sexual appetite. Therefore it’s o.k. to use the body to satisfy the desire. It’s normal. It’s natural.*
3. Even *lawful* things may not be right for the Christian. There are two principles:

\**All things are not helpful, expedient or profitable…Expedient* means, “bearing together". I am not alone in this world. This should govern the conduct of the believer! Things may be lawful, but if they will not help my fellowship with other believers, they are to be avoided. With their background, they didn’t understand the purity and holiness of God.

**What effect would this deed have on others, if I should indulge in it?**

\**I will not be mastered by anything…*harmless or lawful practices can gain mastery over us…social drink, gluttony, sports, recreation, credit cards, the stock market.

**I will not be mastered by anything. I have one Master!**

1. ***The Picture 13, 14***

We make excuses for sin!

1. *Foods for the body and the body for food* was a common saying. Now the saying was applied to sex. The body is not for immorality.
2. *But for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.* God has the power to raise that body. Here is the power to stay pure…the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!
3. The body of the believer is not his, it belongs to the Lord. **It’s not yours to do as you please!**
4. ***The Partnership 15-18*** *Don’t you know?! Do you not know?*
5. **The Connection** *your bodies are members of Christ…*Would Christ do this? *Should I take the members of Christ…*Paul includes himself. Would Paul do this? Let’s connect Christ with a harlot…*make them members*…participants. *God forbid! May it not be so!* **Could a Christian practice immorality and not grieve Christ? *Never!***
6. **The Commonness 16, 17 \****The two become one* does not mean they are married, but it’s much deeper than a physical and emotional release. It’s deeper than going to bed together. You become intimately associated with them! **The body, which really belonged to Christ, was prostituted to someone else!**

**\****He that is joined to the Lord…one spirit* We enjoy His principle of life. This is the closest possible union…one with Him. There is one aim, one desire, one will, one mind. **How could any other union be tolerated or accepted? Sex outside of marriage will destroy your walk with Jesus Christ. IT’S NOT WORTH IT!!**

 **3. The Caution 18**

 **\***How do I say, *“No”? Flee!!!* Don’t pray about it! The Greek is an imperative, *flee*

 *continually…keep fleeing until the danger is past!* Don’t argue, explain or rationalize.

 **We should get away as fast as we can and keep running!!!**

 **\***I believe that although sexual sin is not the worst sin, it is the most unique. It rises

 within the body bent on personal gratification. It drives like no other impulse and

 when fulfilled, affects the body like no other sin. It has a way of internally destroying

 a person that no other sin has. Sexual intimacy is the deepest uniting of two persons. Its

 misuse corrupts on the deepest human level. Sexual immorality is far more destructive

 than alcohol, far more destructive than drugs…**it does something to you deep within!**

*“It’s my body, I can do as I please.”* What if it’s not your body?

**III. HIS PRESENCE 6:19, 20**

1. ***His Place*** *My body is His temple!*
2. *Who is in you?* I can’t get away from Him. He goes where I go. He participates in what I participate.
3. *Whom ye have of God…you are not your own…*Your body is not yours!
4. ***His Purchase 20a*** *For you are bought with a price…*when sex or any sin is a problem, spend time at the cross. His blood paid for me!
5. ***His Praise 20b*** *Therefore (because of the purchase) glorify God in your body…*this does not just apply to sex, but in everything. It is how you dress…where you go…what you do…**the cross casts it’s shadow!** *And your spirit* God does a work inside out…*which are God’s* **Everything about you inside out belongs to Him! Give Him ownership!**