

**Last week: Christian Liberty; what IT IS, and what IT IS NOT:**

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Century, when Paul wrote this epistle, the Corinthian society was very immoral, very similar to the world today. Fornication between unmarried people was typical and VIEWED as normal behavior in the eyes of the world; surprisingly, it was even tolerated by some believers in the church at Corinth.

In fact, the text from last week; (V12-13) implies that there were some in the church who viewed fornication to be no more than satisfying a natural appetite of the body; no different than satisfying the hunger of their belly.

That was the societal culture of Corinth; the problem in Corinth is the same problem that the church is faced with today; the world's culture is infecting the church!

Who's influencing whom? Is the world influencing you with their godless philosophies? Or are you, by your Christian testimony and godly witness influencing the world?

Paul taught them that although they were free to partake of and do things in their lives (AS CHRISTIANS) that were not forbidden by God, (in things indifferent), they were not free to sin and turn their liberty into licentiousness. What is licentiousness? Indulging in any freedom to excess. To be unrestrained by law or morality.

(V12): All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient. By THINGS LAWFUL Paul was describing things not specifically forbidden in God's Word.

Remember that expedient means helpful and profitable to your soul and to the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ. With this in mind, we need to look at our liberties and ask ourselves; are my Liberties helpful, edifying, and profitable to my soul? Does my liberty help my testimony and witness for Christ? Or does it negatively affect my soul and hurt my Christian testimony and witness?

This is where we pick up from last week: In Paul continuing TO CORRECT the Corinthian Church, teaching them that fornication is NOT a liberty that you are free to partake of as Christians! And that includes any sin against God in the name of Christian liberty. Text: V13-21

**This is where Paul turned their attention to consider their bodies.**

The reasoning of some in the Church at Corinth was, we have liberty to satisfy the natural appetites and cravings of our bodies; whatever those appetites, desires, and cravings may be.

Eating is for the body and the body is for eating; (when you're hungry you eat); and so, sex is for the body and the body is for sex. Therefore, I am free to satisfy my sexual appetite as well! Understand that the sin of fornication was viewed by many of them as normal human behavior; not sinful at all!

Paul's answer to their reasoning: Now the body is NOT for

fornication; so then, what is the body for? And what should we know about our bodies as Christians?

(V13): Your bodies are for the Lord, and the Lord for your bodies

(V14): Your bodies (Christian) will be raised up, in the resurrection at the last day. How is this important?

(V15): Your bodies (Christian) are the members of Christ. You are joined to Christ!

(V19): Your bodies are not your own

(V20): Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's

**1<sup>st</sup>: Your body Christian is for the Lord!** There was a spiritual disconnect in the minds of many believers in the Church at Corinth; a disconnect between what they believed and how they lived. 1 Corinthians 1:4-6

They were enriched in knowledge and doctrine, the testimony of Christ was confirmed in them, but their conduct, attitudes, and behavior did not match their profession of faith in Christ.

Christian, when God saved you, he saved you, both body and soul. God saves/changes the whole person. And so, your faith in Christ is not just Biblical knowledge that you possess about Christ and the gospel of Christ; but the Spirit of Christ IN YOU should drive & influence you in your mind, in your thoughts, and in the everyday actions of your life; AND YES, in the things that you DO WITH YOUR BODY. Christian, your body is NOT for fornication, or for any sin, but for serving the Lord!

Romans 12:1-2, 6:12-13, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5, 5:22-23

If YOUR Christianity doesn't change your whole life including WHAT YOU DO with your body; something is wrong with your Christianity!

**2<sup>nd</sup>: God is going to raise/resurrect YOUR body Christian from the dead!**

Think about it; when Christ rose from the dead, He was not a different Person. He was the same Jesus in both His Spirit and in His body. The Apostles recognized Him, they saw the imprints where the nails were driven into His hands, they saw where the Roman soldier's spear had pierced His side. He sat down by the Sea of Galilee and ate a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb with them. Luke 24:36-43

And so, YOU will be recognizable (child of God) as YOU in the resurrection! YOU will be the same Person. The difference? You will no longer be plagued by sin, and you will no longer possess a mortal and corruptible body. But you will be completely freed from sin; you will no longer be of the earth, earthy.

1 Corinthians 15:47-51, Philippians 3:20-21

THINK about how that would look, if you were NOT the same person in the resurrection (in spirit) that you were in your earthly life? Wait a minute, this is NOT the same person that I knew in the world! They didn't desire heaven in their

earthly life, but now they do. Beloved, in the resurrection, our vile bodies will be changed, but we will possess of the SAME Spirit!

On that day, we will finally be freed/liberated from these bodies of sin and death. Think about it, you don't bury a fornicator/sinner in death, who comes up a saint in the resurrection!

1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Romans 8:11-14

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Understand, Christian, that there IS an intimate relationship between you and the Lord Jesus Christ; in body, soul, and spirit. (V15-16)**

As believers, remember that your WHOLE PERSON belongs to Christ; there is an intimate union between Christ and His church (believers); this is spoken of in Ephesians 5; it is a relationship that is likened to a marriage! IT IS a marriage! Christ is the bride groom; His church is the bride! Shall I then take my body and join it in an immoral sexual relationship?

This applies to both men and women. Paul told the Corinthians; how can you say that you're united to Christ when you're united and joined together with a harlot? Ephesians 5:30-32

(V17): But he that is joined to the Lord is one spirit

Think about it Christian, in Christ, you are one with the Lord, (joined to Him), if you enter into an immoral sexual relationship with someone other than your husband/wife, you're joining Christ in intimacy with a harlot.

John 14:15-24, 17:18-23, Text: 6:18

Matthew Henry: We must not make our present vile bodies MORE vile by sinning against them. Fornication is a sin that, once began is rarely stopped.

**Finally, Christian: Ownership, your bodies are NOT your own.**

Don't you know this? Says Paul. Don't you know that the Spirit of God dwells in you? That makes you the Habitation of God and the Temple of the Holy Ghost! 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

For ye are not your own

What does THIS passage make you think Christian? What are the thoughts arise up in your minds when you hear God's Word tell you that YOUR body doesn't belong to you, but to God? It is NOT for your use or misuse, but for God's use; to serve and glorify Him? It's all a question of OWNERSHIP and WILLING submission.

If you profess faith in Christ, you profess to be BOUGHT with a price. You were in bondage to sin and to Satan, but then, you were delivered by a ransom. There was a cost and a payment that had to be made so that you might be freed from your sins and from your captor, who was the tyrant of your soul. You are NOT your own, but YOU WERE bought with a price!

You WERE the servants of sin: Romans 6:17-18

You WERE redeemed/purchased: Acts 20:28

The COST of your redemption, the blood of Christ: Matthew

20:28, Ephesians 1:7, 1 Peter 1:18-19

**For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body,  
and in your spirit, which are God's: 1 Corinthians 10:31,  
Colossians 3:17, 23**