

1819 - 1 Cor 6:12-20 KEEP the BODY PURE

PRELIMS. Paul has been correcting the Cors for incest, pride, complacency, lawsuits against each other (taking Xn brothers before a secular court). He argues that if they were able through God's grace to cease the sins listed in [v11], then they ought to be able by God's grace to cease taking their brothers to court!! Paul now returns to the subject of **sexual immorality!** Probably because it was the main one in Corinth or maybe the most common! Certainly today in the UK, I would think sexual immorality is one of the main sins in the nation!

Paul is here **reasoning biblically** with them as to **why** they **ought** to make stronger efforts to stop sexual immorality. There is the **7th Commandment** - but Paul gives **six** other **biblical reason** to show the **sinfulness** of this sin!

1. ARGUMENT from 'NOT BEING UNDER the LAW'! [v12]

Paul is here saying that something can be perfectly **legitimate** but at the same time it can be very **dangerous!** Eg, we are **commanded to work!** Yet work has been, is, and can be, the **downfall** of many Xns! It is **just because** it is legitimate and a command, that work can be an **excellent excuse** for missing a church service, or staying at home with the family, or spending time reading the Bible or spending time in prayer. There are many legitimate things which have the **potential** to develop into **idolatry!** Idolatry is very **subtle!** **Workaholics!** Paul ... *All things are **lawful** for me, but **not** all things are **helpful**...but I will **not be enslaved** by anything [12]*

Many Cors were saying, 'We have been saved by God's grace, not by keeping the law. The law is **not important!** Grace is what is we need to know about, not the law'! All of us have probably heard Xns reasoning like that! Such people do not seem to be concerned about keeping God's law, not even the 10 Commandments! Some Xns have reasoned that Paul himself in His epistle to the Galatians said as much quoting his letter to the Romans *since you are **not under law** but under grace* [Rom 6:14]! But they **forget** (or are ignorant of) his **answer** in the next verse *Are we **to sin** because we are not under law*

*but under grace? **By no means!*** [Rom 6:15]! People **confuse** the **source** of salvation (God's free **grace**) and the **lifestyle** that God wants His people to live after being saved (His law, His Word). When Paul says we are 'under grace', he is referring to **how** we are saved and not informing us of how we are to **live!** If we have been saved by God's grace, we will want to **please** God who **planned/provided** it! Ie, the Xn who has been saved will **desire to please God!**

2. ARGUMENT from DESIGN [vv13,14]

Paul is really warning the Cors (and us) against giving-in to the demands of the **body** - or the **cravings of the flesh!** He now mentions a sin which is mentioned a lot in Scripture but is **ignored/unnoticed** in churches today! **Overeating! *Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food*** [13] (another example of a command which can be abused!) Our bodies were created and designed to **glorify God!** You see some Cors were arguing, as people do today, male and female are **sexually designed** for one and another, therefore we can be **promiscuous!** Not so, says Paul *the body is **not meant** for sexual immorality* [13]! Two considerations:

The first: Our bodies **belong to God** and He **owns** it! *you are **not your own*** [19c] Our bodies are **FOR the Lord and the Lord for the body** [13] We **serve** the Lord with our bodies, it is for **His glory and purpose!** Many of these Cors would have believed the teaching of the **Epicureans** who were **hedonists** and taught that the 'body was for **pleasure**' and so we must **satisfy** the **desires** of the body! You see what you **believe** about our origin and purpose is **important!** Our limbs have been created for **work!** Good work! Producing useful and good things - our bodies are not for mutilating or destroying, or piercing, or tattooing! They are to be used in fulfilling the Lord's work. We are not simply **intelligent** creatures - we have **bodies** to be **practical** Xns to serve the Lord with our bodies!

The second consideration is that our bodies are going to be **renewed!** *As God raised the Lord Jesus, He will **also raise us up by His power*** [14]! The body is **important** to God. We must look after them. To overeat, to over-drink is sinful, to smoke, to abuse it is sinful. To take

risks with our body is sinful! To put them out of shape is sinful! We are to have bodies in the resurrection - its an important part of us!

3. ARGUMENT from UNION with CHRIST [v15-17]

We have all heard the saying ‘Do not mix your drinks’? Or ‘Blue and Green should never be seen’? ‘It just doesn’t go together’? Well Paul asks *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!** Or do you not know that he who is **joined** to a prostitute becomes **one body** with her?* [15] A Xn is someone who is **united** to Christ - **as One Body!** Paul quotes Bible in [Mat 19:5 which turn quotes Gen 2:24] *The two shall become **one flesh*** [16]

Paul is making the point that when we become Xns we are **inseparately joined together with Jesus Christ!** We are reckoned as one! *he who is **joined** to the **Lord** becomes **one** spirit with Him* [17] Paul reasons about being united to Christ *For if we have been **united** with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be **united** with Him in a resurrection like His* [Rom 6:5] Friends, if we are not united to X we will be lost for ever! The Cors were ‘big’ on **contaminating** and **polluting** sacred places. Paul capitalised on that point ‘Would you join Christ with a prostitute?’ Well that is what happens if you commit sexual immorality!

4. ARGUMENT from HEALTH [v18]

*Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is a sin **outside** the body, but the sexual immoral person sins **against his own body*** [18] He **injures** his own body! Thus **AIDS!** Other sins like stealing, lying, swearing, do not directly affect the body! ‘Centres for Disease Control’ in Atlanta, USA say there are **38,000 new cases** of sexually transmitted diseases **every day - in 1986!** Increased since then! [Power in the Blood, Chilton, p50] Sexual immorality is a **health risk!** Sexual Education **increases** promiscuity! Planned Parenthood have now **admitted** it! Abstention is the solution! Sexual sins are **politically protected** in our culture! We will never stop the problems of teenage pregnancy until our **political leaders** start

calling sin, **sin!** None of the political remedies against the huge cost of immorality will work until we address the real problem - sin!

5. ARGUMENT from the HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE [v19]

We are liable to **forget** what actually takes place when we are **regenerated!** The Cors forgot **who they actually were!!** They were Temples in which **God Spirit dwelt!** *do you not know that your body is a temple of the **Holy Spirit within** you* [19] The Cors **revered temples!** They had a lot of temples for their various gods! In fact temples are the symbols of the Greek world - mugs, tea towels, plates all have images of temples! To **defile** a temple was **sacrilege!** So to commit sexual immorality was to pollute Christ - their Saviour! The Cors **did** have a **high esteem** of Jesus Christ! It was their **philosophy** that was erroneous! It was their **heathen** concept of **God, humanity, origins, destinies, sin, salvation** etc, which were so wrong! So today, it is our understanding of **'Who we are?'** and **'What is life all about?'** that is so wrong. We are accountable creatures of God!

ARGUMENT from MANUMISSION [v20]

The Xn Cors were **set free!** *you were **bought with a price!!***[20] If you are a Xn, Jesus Christ set you free - at a **price!** It was free to **you** - but it was anything but free to Him! Just as there is no such things a **free lunch** - for someone, somewhere, at some time, **worked** and **earned** and paid for it - so the free salvation that we all enjoy, and the many temporal 'side-blessings' that accompany it, cost the Lord Jesus Christ His life and blood! An exceedingly high price!

You see, many of the members in the Cor Church were **slaves** - and they knew very well what it was to be a **legitimate** slave to someone who **paid** for them! Some would have had very **hard** masters! They also knew the **cost** it was to **buy** their own freedom - just **beyond** so many of them! But freedom was something very **precious** to slaves. **APP** That is why it is vital that slaves of sin are convicted that they are indeed slaves and that they just **cannot possibly buy** their own freedom! They need Jesus Christ! *So **glory God in your BODY*** [20]