

The First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians

Glorify God in Your Body

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

1. **Your Body Is Not For Immorality** (vs.12-14)

It is common for people to justify the sinful things that they do, which they love to do (cf. Rev. 2:21), as things which are natural and, therefore, cannot be sinful (v.13a). God has clearly indicated that freedom in Christ is not an authorization to sin (cf. Jude 4). Our bodies are not to be treated recklessly because, like Jesus, we will be resurrected with our bodies (Jn. 6:39; 1 Jn. 3:2).

2. **Your Body is Part of Christ's Body** (vs.15-17)

The Christian is united with Christ (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3). Later in this epistle Paul describes the local church as a single body with Christ as its head (1 Cor. 12:12, 27; cf. Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18). Here Paul describes the body simply as Christ's body with each individual believer as a part of His body. It is not simply a portion of a Christian which is part of the body of Christ, but the entire person is part of Christ's body. It ought to be unthinkable (cf. Rom. 6:2, 15) that the uniquely wonderful bodily union which is experienced between a husband and wife within marriage would be defiled by immorality (cf. Gen. 2:24; Heb. 13:4).

3. **Your Body is Uniquely Effected by Immorality** (v.18)

Many different types of sin can have both immediate and lasting ramifications, but no other sin enters into the realm of uniting two into one flesh as does sexual immorality (Matt 1:6; cf. Gen. 35:22; 49:3-4; 1 Chron. 5:1-3). The best course of action when tempted in sexual sin is to flee (Gen. 39:6-19; cf. Jam. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9).

4. **Your Body is a Temple of the Holy Spirit** (v.19)

God was pleased to uniquely dwell in a tabernacle for hundreds of years before He allowed a stone temple to be built in which for Him to dwell until the time of Christ (2 Sam. 7:5-7, 12-13; cf. Acts 7:46-50). Now the corporate local body of believers and the individual believer are both properly regarded as a temple of the Lord (cf. 1 Cor. 3:9, 16).

5. **You Have Been Bought with a Price** (v.20)

The only way for God both to uphold justice and to justify sinners was for the Son to be the perfect substitute sacrifice (Isa. 53:10-11; Rom. 3:26; 1 Pet. 2:24). The Christian ought to consider the entire scope of God's attributes and actions manifested in the cross of Christ when considering the freedom they have in Christ.