

“Glorify God In Your Body”
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
4/18/21
Message 13

Introduction

- Title of the Message is: “Glorify God In Your Body”

- **Review - Making our Way through 1 Corinthians**

- **1st The Church Started Strong**
 - Paul founded the church on his 2nd missionary journey
 - Paul Spent 18 months there
 - Church started GREAT - IN The Spirit
 - But ran into major problems - SIN
 - Paul gets word of these problems and writes his letters
 - 1st Letter was not received well
- **2nd DIVISION – CARNALITY Chapters 1-3**
 - Paul Has been dealing with Divisions
 - Pride – Caused Division Chapters 1-2
 - I am of Paul - Apollos, etc...
 - Carnality in the church Chapter 3
 - They were stuck on milk - could not eat meat
- **3rd Right Example Chapter 4**
 - What a TRUE church and PASTOR should look like
- **4th Immorality In The Church – Chapter 5**

- Moves to the Subject of Sexual Sin -
- Unrepentant Sin
- Church Discipline
- **5th Do You Not Know - Chapter 6**
 - **Do You NOT Know**
 - **1st A Challenge –**
 - You get the hint of a little sarcasm in Paul’s voice
 - As if he is saying...
 - "You who profess to be so clever and intellectual can it be that you are ignorant of these basic facts?"
 - How is it that you have forgotten who and what you are in Christ
 - **2nd An Encouragement**
 - Remember Your position in Christ
 - **Last Week We Looked at the first 3 vs. 1-11**
 - 1st V.2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?
 - 2nd V. 3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels?
 - 3rd V. 6 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?
 - AKA = **"Remember WHAT / WHO You Are"**
 - **This Morning The Next 3 vs. 12-20**

- 1st V. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
- 2nd Vs. 16-17 Do You Not Know - Sexual Sin Make you One with a Harlot
- 3rd Vs. 19-20 Do You Not Know - You're the Temple of the Holy Spirit
- AKA = "Remember To Whom You Belong."

• **This Moring In Remembering To Whom We Belong we will see 3 Powerful Truths To Glorify God In Your Body**

- The Principle Of Liberty v. 12
- The Problem Of Sexual Sin Vs. 13-18
- The Purpose Of God For US vs. 19-20

The Principle Of Liberty v. 12

• **First: All Things are "LAWFUL" for me v. 12**

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- **1st Context vs. 9-11**

1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (NKJV)

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

▪ **Paul Has just told Them**

- 1st The Unrighteous will NOT Inherit the Kingdom of God
- 2nd SO Don't be Deceived

- 3rd The list of Sins will keep you from God
- 4th The Lawsuits are on the same level as these sins
- 5th And SUCH Were Some of YOU
- 6th BUT now you have Been
 - WASHED – SANCITIFIED- JUSTIFED By Jesus
- SO AKA – Remember Who and What you ARE
- **2nd All things Are Lawful For v. 12a**

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

▪ **Paul Goes to correct a problem –**

- Most Likely a phrase Paul had used in teaching the Corinthian Christians about Christian liberty.
- We can almost hear Paul telling the Corinthians exactly what he told the Colossians in Colossians 2:16-17

Colossians 2:16–17 (NKJV)

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,

17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

- When it comes to what we eat or drink or on what day we worship the Lord, all things are lawful for me.
- I am at liberty, and I should not let anyone put me under bondage, as LAW did or the legalists are prone to do.
- Sadly - The Corinthians
 - Mis-Understood Paul on the subject of Christian Liberty

- Or they Did not want to really take the time to truly understand

- **3rd The Attitude and Behavior of the Corinthians**

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- **The Corinthian took ALL Things are Lawful - LIBERTY**

- And applied it to areas Paul, and the Lord, NEVER Intended.

- **They used their “liberty” as a license to sin.**

- Specifically...

- Chapter 5 – They were very excepting of the man having sexual relation with his Step Mom or Mom

- They wore like a bag of honor – look how liberal we are

- From the text - To the harlot in 1 Corinthians 6:15

- The point seems to be that the Corinthian Christians thought they had the liberty to use the services of prostitutes.

- This was culturally accepted in the city of Corinth, and it was accepted in the religious community among the religious pagans, who saw nothing wrong in a “religious” person using prostitutes

- **Illustration – Just like the church today**

- **I have run into many “Christians” that believe**

- Fornication is okay

- Living Together before marriage is okay
- A former pastor who ran off with the worship leader's wife believes it was okay
- Sadly - the Church says Little to nothing

- **Pornography**

- Over 40 million Americans are regular visitors to porn sites
- There are around 42 million porn websites, which totals around 370 million pages of porn.
- The porn industry's annual revenue is more than
 - The NFL, NBA, and MLB combined.
 - It is also more than the combined revenues of ABC, CBS, and NBC.
- 47% of families in the United States reported that pornography is a problem in their home.
- Pornography use increases the marital infidelity rate by more than 300%.
- Eleven is the average age that a child is first exposed to porn, and 94% of children will see porn by the age of 14.
- 56% of American divorces involve one party having an "obsessive interest" in pornographic websites.
- 70% of Christian youth pastors report that they have had at least one teen come to them for help in dealing with pornography in the past 12 months.
- 68% of church-going men and over 50% of pastors view porn on a regular basis.

- Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.
- 59% of pastors said that married men seek their help for porn use.
- 33% of women aged 25-and-under search for porn at least once per month.
- Only 13% of self identified Christian women say they never watch porn – 87% of Christian women have watched porn.
- 55% of married men and 25% of married women say they watch porn at least once a month.
- 57% of pastors say porn addiction is the most damaging issue in their congregation. And 69% say porn has adversely impacted the church.
- **4th I will not be brought under the power of any:**

1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV)

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- Sin has POWER
 - The word means “mastered” (Rom. 6:14)
 - No sin is more enslaving than sexual sin
 - Why?!
 - Personally, in my experience as a pastor it is the most common sin in the believer’s life
 - Some Struggle with Drinking – drugs – gambling – etc.. but candidly most Christian will struggle with Sexual sin

• Sin will take you farther than you want to go,

- keep you longer than you want to stay,
- and cost you more than you want to pay. –”

○ 5th Lesson - Understanding Christian Liberty

▪ 1st Freed from the PENALTY of SIN - BY FAITH Jesus Christ

- (John 8:31-36; Romans 6:23)

John 8:31–36 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

33 They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free?’”

34 Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

▪ 2nd Freed from the POWER of sin in one’s life (Romans 6:5-6, 14)

Romans 6:5–6 (NKJV)

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Romans 6:14 (NKJV)

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

▪ 3rd Freed from the Jewish Law of Moses

- The Law only "exposes" sin in one’s life but cannot "forgive" sin (Romans 3:20-22)

Romans 3:20–22 (NKJV)

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Galatians 3:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

▪ **4th Freed to Enjoy activity that is not expressly forbidden in the Bible**

- One can feel free to engage in such activity as long as it doesn't "stumble" or "offend" another Christian (Romans 14:12-16)
- Illustration
 - Most of these activities revolve around social "dos" and "don'ts, such as
 - Clothing (Keep in mind Modesty)
 - Food -
 - Tattoos
 - Piercings
 - Practicing certain things, such as
 - Smoking

- Drinking
- Gambling
- Movies
- Etc....

▪ **5th Here the Christian LAW summed UP**

Matthew 22:36–40 (NKJV)

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ ”

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ”

40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

- The Christian isn't governed by LAW, but by LOVE

The Problem Of Sexual Sin Vs. 13-18

• **Serious Nature of Sexual Sin**

- NOT only harms and controls but also perverts
- It especially perverts God's Plan and Purpose for the bodies of His people
 - We are the BODY of Christ
 - We are MEMBERS of Christ
 - We are the TEMPEL of the Holy Spirit

• **First: The Reasoning They Used v. 13a**

1 Corinthians 6:13 (NKJV)

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- **1st Paul is addressing a logic that they were probably using to justify their sin behavior**

- The Corinthian logic is like that of many folks today,
 - *I've got a hunger drive, a thirst drive, a sleep drive, a sex drive – so since it's not a sin to eat anything I want, or drink anything I want, or sleep anytime I want - it must not matter to God then, if I have sex whenever and with whomever I want"*
 - My body wants food, so I eat. My body wants sex, so I hire a prostitute. What's the problem?
- That's faulty thinking - but that was Corinthian thinking
- **2nd But Paul stops them**
 - **He is saying**
 - But Paul will not let them take that slogan, which applies to irrelevant food restrictions, and apply it to sexual immorality.
 - It is true that food and the stomach were made for each other, but it is also true that that relationship is just temporal
 - One day, when their purpose has been fulfilled, God will do away with both of them
 - **The body...it's different**
 - The bodies of believers are designed by God for much more than just biological functions
 - The body is to be the instrument of the Lord, for His use and glory
 - It should be used according to His design and plan
 - Will be raised up by the Lord at the resurrection.

- So what we do with our bodies in regard to food does not affect us in the same way as what we do with our bodies in regard to sex.

• **Second: The Relationship We Have To The Lord vs. 13b-17**

○ **1st Verses 13b-14**

1 Corinthians 6:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, *but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.*

14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

- Our bodies are designed not only to serve in this life
 - But in the life to come
 - They will be changed bodies, resurrected bodies, glorified bodies, heavenly bodies—but they will still be our own bodies
 - The stomach and food have only a horizontal, temporal relationship
 - At death the relationship ceases
- But our bodies are far more than biological
 - For believers they also have a spiritual, vertical relationship
 - They belong to God and they will forever be with God

○ **2nd Verses 15-17**

1 Corinthians 6:15–17 (NKJV)

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 harlot? Certainly not!

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.”

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- **1st Do you not know...**
 - Did they really NOT KNOW?
- **2nd Your bodies are members of Christ:**
 - When an individual Christian commits sexual immorality
 - It disgraces the entire body of Christ, linking the body of Christ to immorality.
- **3rd He who is joined to a harlot is one body with her... one flesh:**
 - In their sexual relationship, a husband and wife become “one flesh” in a way that is under God’s blessing

Genesis 2:24 (NKJV)

24 *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.*

- A bond takes place that is hard to completely understand – BUT you become ONE with them
- This is way sex outside of marriage is SO DAMAGING
- *Wiersbe; “Sex outside of marriage is like a man robbing a bank: he gets something, but it is not his and he will one day pay for it. Sex within marriage can be like a person putting money into a bank: there is safety, security, and he will collect dividends.”*
- **4th Sadly Our society does not understand the gravity of the sexual relationship**
 - Story: A man once wrote a letter to Ann Landers seeking advice
 - She posted it in her column, "Dear Ann, I've been sleeping with three women for several months. Until a few days ago, none of them knew the others existed. Things were fine. By chance, two of them

met, compared notes, and found me out. Now they're furious with me. What am I going to do? P.S. Please don't give me any of your moral junk. Signed, Trapped."

- Ann replied, "Dear Trapped, The one major thing that separates the human race from animals is a God-given sense of morality. Since you don't have a sense of morality, I strongly suggest you consult a veterinarian."
- Tragically, our society mistakenly sees human sexuality as little more than animal instinct –
- **5th Verse 17 says, "He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him."**
 - Sex carries with it profound spiritual implications
 - When you're married, there's a oneness that goes beyond the physical...it's soulish
 - And for the believer it's spiritual
 - As the Body of Christ, as the Bride of Christ we are one with Him
 - This means if you engage in any form of sex outside the boundaries of heterosexual marriage you're prostituting the body of Christ
 - You've sold loyalty to Jesus...
 - For the cheap thrill of a moment's pleasure
 - When a believer
 - logs onto to a pornographic website you've logged the body of Christ onto that website...
 - Climb into bed with another man's wife you've pulled the bed sheets over the body of Christ...

- Walks into a strip club, it's the body of Christ that enters...
- Participate in sex outside marriage
 - You're not just risking future rejection - or venereal disease - or unwanted pregnancy - or AIDS...
 - More importantly you're violating the spiritual bond between you and your Lord
 - Sex outside marriage betrays the fidelity between Christ and His Body
- That's why he says verse 18....

• **Third: The Response We Should All Have v. 18**

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV)

18 *Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.*

- **1st React Immediately**
 - The Greek –
 - Indicates the idea is to flee continually and to keep fleeing until the danger is past
 - When we're in danger of such immorality
 - We shouldn't argue or debate or explain, or rationalize
 - Passion is not rational or sensible, and sexually dangerous situations should be avoided or fled, not debated
 - We should get away as fast as we can
 - Remember Joseph
 - Don't sit, and try to fight - just split, and take flight

- Preserve your purity at all costs. Don't sell your integrity for a passing pleasure.

○ **2nd Recognize The Consequences**

▪ **1st Dishonors the body - Rom. 1:24, 27**

Romans 1:24 (NKJV)

24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,

Romans 1:27 (NKJV)

27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

▪ **2nd Despises the call of God - 1 Th. 4:7-8**

1 Thessalonians 4:7–8 (NKJV)

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

▪ **3rd Diminishes the blessing of sexual vitality - Prov. 5:18-23**

Proverbs 5:18–23 (NKJV)

18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.

19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.

20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.

22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.

23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

▪ **4th Destroys bodily functions - Prov. 5:11**

Proverbs 5:11 (NKJV)

11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed,

▪ **5th Destroys Your Soul – Prov 6:32**

Proverbs 6:32 (NKJV)

32 *Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.*

- Sexual sin begins with desire and ends in tragedy
- Sex outside marriage always hurts somebody
 - Spouses are devastated.
 - Children are scarred
 - It has devastated countless lives and destroyed families, churches, communities, and even nations

The Purpose Of God For US vs. 19-20

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?*

20 *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

• **First: God's Spirit Resides In Me**

- The Temple was God's OT habitation
- It had one owner - it was for one purpose - the service and worship of God
- And like wise your body is the Holy Spirit's habitation
- It too was purchased... by the blood of Jesus
- So you're not free to use it as you please – it too is for service and worship!

• **Second: Jesus Christ Redeemed Me**

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold,
from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

• **Third: I Should Respond By Glorifying Him (Romans 12:1-2)**

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Closing

• **Show Pic**

- The Apostle Paul NEVER had a PROBLEM calling Sexual SIN for what it was - Evil - BUT He always brought it back to the CROSS - Where GRACE, MERCY, and FORGIVENESS are Found
- Thank You Jesus for the Cross
- Encouragement – Have you blown it recently in this area? If not physically in your mind?

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.