

1 Corinthians When Faith & Life Collide

Study 7

The Gospel and Sexuality

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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“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. 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.

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.

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. 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.”

A. THE ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR BODIES

- 1. What were the 2 extreme (and incorrect) views of sexuality at the time of the Corinthians?**

1 Corinthians 6:12-13

“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. 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.”

2. a) Compare the parallelism between the food/stomach vs the body/the Lord.

1 Corinthian 6:13	1 Corinthians 6:13-14

b) What are the differences between one and the other?

3. Corinth was a city famous for its prostitutes and immorality. How did some of the Corinthian Church incorrectly justify persisting in their sexual immorality?

4. What is the Biblical purpose of sexual union in marriage?

B. OUR BODIES ALREADY BONDED TO CHRIST'S

1 Corinthians 6:15

“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!”

5. Why does extramarital sex (fornication/adultery) result in us being “torn away” as a member of Christ?

C. SEX IS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

1 Corinthians 6:16-17

“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.”

6. Sex is a unitive act. What does this mean?

7. God designed the husband-wife relationship and sexual intimacy. What does sex reflect in our relationship with God? (In other words, what was God’s intended purpose for sex between a husband and a wife?)

8. What is the difference between lust and love?

Aspects	Lust	Love
Goal		
Partner		
Purpose		
Commitment		
Value		

9. Is it truly possible to become one flesh with a prostitute? Why or why not?

1 Corinthians 6:17-18

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

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. ”

10. Why is sexual sin a sin against the body?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“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.”

11. How does sexual immorality damage the body in its capacity as the temple of the Holy Spirit?

12. What should motivate us to avoid sexual immorality?

Takeaway

- A. The sexual union in marriage is to display the spiritual union and love that we enjoy with Christ
- B. Extramarital sex is a distortion of the true one flesh act
- C. Sexual sin disrupts the body's most powerful and intimate way of communication in relationships (self-donation) for personal transformation
- D. We have been bought with a price by Christ
 - a. Our bodies belong to Him
 - b. We ought to walk in a manner that is chaste, holy, and glorifying to Him

Case Study

Case 1 – Liberty?

Anthony Wong has been living with his wife at The Olive in Subang Jaya for the past 3 years. He is in an “open” relationship where there have been occasions where there have been other women. When he feels the urge he visits the ladies of the night in a club near by. His wife Amber was upset at first but since she does not like sex she no longer protested very much. He recently was at Alpha in church and was now struggling to make a decision about Christ and he is being counselled by different Alpha facilitators. When it comes to his life style he struggles and asks “Sex is so natural why does Christianity persists in being so old fashioned taking morals more than 2000 years ago and applying it to modern times. We should have liberty and be free”.

1. How does Paul counter these arguments put forward to justify immorality in 1 Cor. 6:13-14?

2. Specifically, why is having sex with a prostitute wrong in 1 Cor. 6:15-17?

3. What is the final reason from verse 18-20 that Paul gives for not engaging with sexual immorality?