

## GAMMA 2017

### STUDY 7

1 Corinthians 6 :12-20

- 1. Corinth was a city famous for its prostitutes and immorality. How did some of the Church justify persisting in their sexual immorality?**

They rationalised their activities and the two slogans that appear in this text in verse 12 and 13 allow us a glimpse in to their thinking.

“Everything is permissible”. This slogan emphasized that the Christian was already set free in Christ. He did not have to live under the yoke of the Law and enjoyed true freedom. Alternatively, the slogan could have come about from the Gnostics who were a certain religious group of people at the time who believed that we have a body and a soul which were totally separate and whatever done in the body had no impact upon the soul’s ultimate destination. Thus people would be free to do whatever they liked with their bodies without any consequences.

Therefore, it would follow that there would also be sexual freedom as well. In our contemporary culture we saw this in the sexual liberation of the 60’s where men and women in America threw off their yokes of repressed sexuality and celebrated a sexuality that was freed from its traditional moral fetters.

Sexuality would be truly liberating and enjoyable after all it was a gift of God.

“Food is for the stomach” V 13a. This was the other slogan they paraded to justify their actions. Sex is just a natural part of our physical bodies. It is a legitimate physical need like hunger for food and it has to be filled without regard to moral boundaries. The fact is that both natural desires are associated with our physical bodies which will one day pass away and count for nothing therefore what ever we do in our physical bodies will have little relevance in the ultimate scheme of things.

- 2. Look at the newspaper articles in this study. How does current day thinking with regard to sexuality compare with Corinthian morality? Discuss how our concept of sexuality can impact our behavior. What about the theory of evolution with regard to human nature how does that impact on morality today?**

The articles show how people today like Ms Gina Wild of Germany still justify their sexual immorality by appealing to the concept that sexual desires are just like our natural desire for food and thus this legitimizes the immorality. Even she says “I need the satisfaction like people need food”

Like the Corinthians Ms Wild says her activities as a part time prostitute were not for money but to “set free her soul”. Free sex is cast in a language which would be familiar to the Corinthians .. a liberating experience.

Drew Barrymore of Charlie’s Angels fame revealed she was bisexual but justified it by saying that she loved both male and female bodies. Her admiration for the beauty of the human body is used to legitimize her deviant sexual behavior.

Both these stories illustrate how our concepts of sexuality will ultimately determine our ethics or behavior.

The theory of evolution reduces humans to an accident of nature after millions of years. It removes God from the scene completely and thus as human animals were must be permitted to do what comes naturally which is to give in to our sexual desires without restraint.

3. **Anthony Wong has been living with his wife boy 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 counseled 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”. How does Paul counter these arguments put forward to justify immorality? In verse 13-14**

Paul does not dispute the liberty that they enjoyed however taken just as it is the truth is actually abused or stretched. Yes they were free but not everything that they did was going to be beneficial to them as he pointed out in verse 12. . The Corinthian who regards himself, as a superior spiritual person so free that he is also free to have sex with prostitutes will ultimately find himself enslaved or mastered by a power stronger than the law. Immorality instead of releasing him will enslave him. The Non Christian concept of liberty is faulty as there can be no true liberty for everyone to do as they please. CK Barrett writes of Paul agreeing with the slogan ‘All things are permitted’, but he will not let it go without strict qualification. Christian liberty is not license, for license is not more but less than liberty.

In verse 13 Paul also agrees with them that sex is a physical drive and adds that both hunger and sexual desire will pass away in the future that is they will not have permanent significance for us.

However, the Christian view of the body is not the same as the Gnostic view. For the Christian, his body is dedicated to God. It was designed in His image and purposed for

His glory. What we do with our bodies is neither irrelevant nor inconsequential. The importance of the body is shown by the fact that God will raise our bodies from the dead just as He raised Jesus from the dead. There is no concept of the separation of the soul and the body they are one and the same and important.

**4. Specifically, why is having sex with a prostitute wrong in verse 15-17**

In verse 15 we see that when we become Christians we become incorporated in to the church which is the wider body of Christ in the world. In this verse our physical bodies are emphasized and somehow are united with Christ. In verse 17 we are united with Him in spirit. Thus the emphasis of Paul is that our union with Christ involves the totality of our selves physically and spiritually. There is no separation between body and soul as the Gnostics believe having sex with some one else involves our total self not just our genitals.

In verse 16 Paul points out that sex is a unique experience that involves the total person entering into a union with another person. The one flesh experience in Genesis 2 is referred to here. Why sex with a prostitute is wrong is because we would be entering in to an intimate total relationship with someone in a manner which was going to be inconsistent with our union with Christ.

The prostitute would belong to the sphere of Satan and the believer to the sphere of Christ their union would be totally incompatible with their underlying realities.

**5. Look at Jim Bakker (the famous televangelist who fell to sexual sin) description of his sexual liaison do you notice anything wrong with his concept of sex?**

Notice how Bakker said he did not make love to Jessica Hann he just had sex. He relegated the immorality to just the physical realm. His understanding of sex was it was a mere physical event in his mind at the time. It did not involve his mind nor his emotions and perhaps that salved some of his conscience.

"I disrobed and immediately stepped into the shower, turning the water on as hot as I could stand it. I never felt so dirty in all my life.

Maybe if I make the water hotter, it will wash it all away, I thought. "The sex contaminated him physically and he wanted to wash it all away.

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

The final argument is based on our position individually now as the place where the HS resides. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit how can we take temple of God and unite it with the body of the prostitute it would be wrong.

We are bought with a very great price the blood of Christ and as His slaves now we are bound to obey only Him and dedicate our bodies to glorify Him.

Paul is influenced by OT especially Proverbs 6:25-33 where thief only forfeits his goods but sexual offender destroys himself

Corinthian slogan as they do not think the personality is affected and the body is morally irrelevant.

There is a difference btw the sexual sins and others in a general kind not sharp absolute.

There is a difference in

- Its destructiveness of its effects
- Its intrinsic sinfulness
- Its damaging effects especially upon the self

Christ violation

Body violation

Spirit violation

Contrary to Greco-Roman thought where the body exists in a lower plane with the spirit. Things like what we eat and what we drink and how we have sex is on the lower plane. Paul is saying that instead of this it does matter. It is how a person acts bodily in everyday life that reveals spiritually what it means to be in Christ.

Paul therefore instead of denigrating sex has placed it in a very high place. It is not a peripheral function.

## Appendix 1 Study 7

### BISEXUAL ANGEL

**C**HARLIE'S Angels star Drew Barrymore has laid to rest years of speculation by confirming she's bisexual – and claims to have bedded 'lots of women'.

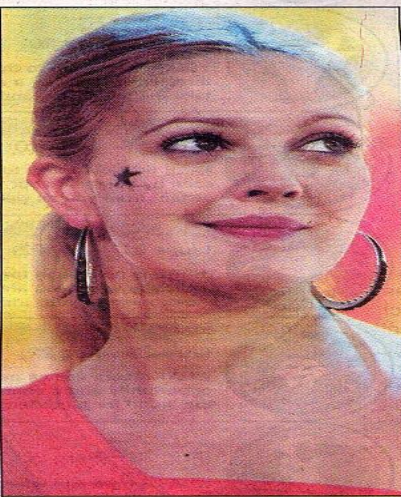
The actress, who's had two failed marriages, and is now dating The Strokes drummer Fabrizio Moretti, has confirmed she harbours sexual feelings for both sexes.

Barrymore has confessed to sleeping with a long line of women during her troubled teenage years, which saw her battling a drug addiction from the age of 11.

She revealed: "Do I like women sexually? Yeah, I do. Totally. I have always considered myself bisexual. I love a woman's body."

"I think a woman and a woman together are beautiful, just as a man and a woman together are beautiful."

Being with a woman is like



**DREW BARRYMORE: Claims to have bedded 'lots of women'**

exploring your own body, but through someone else. When I was younger I used to go with lots of women. Totally – I love it."

### Porn star: I'm addicted to sex

**BERLIN:** Germany's most famous ex-porn star Gina Wild has revealed she is doing a bit on the side in a Frankfurt brothel because she is addicted to sex.

"It's a secret I've carried around with me for a long time - I go to the brothel several times a week. It's not for the money, it's to free my soul," Wild, 32, told Bild newspaper in an interview published yesterday.

Wild, who is married, retired from the porn industry two years ago and wants to move into serious acting and modelling.

"I need the satisfaction the way some other people need food," she admitted. "I'm addicted to sex."

She owned up to the moonlighting after a fan recognised her working in a Frankfurt establishment. – Reuters

*Title: Jim Bakker*

I knew that what I was doing went directly against everything I believed as a Christian. I had never cheated on my wife in all our years of marriage. Jessica Hahn, however, seemed quite comfortable with the situation. I simply abandoned myself to the moment. **We did not make love; we had sex.** When it was over, I quickly left the room, and in a daze, hurried to the elevator and pressed the button marking the eighth floor. The winter afternoon sun was already beginning to slide down on the horizon as I stepped inside my room. I was horrified. Oh, God! What have I done? I had not considered the consequences of my absurd attempt to make Tammy Faye jealous. I had not even paused to think of the potential ramifications of my actions while I was giving in to the temptation of having sex with a woman other than my wife. I had simply reacted. I had

opened the door to attack on the ministry I headed, my family, and me personally. Worse yet, the devil had not made me do any of it; I had done it of my own stubborn will. I disrobed and immediately stepped into the shower, turning the water on as hot as I could stand it. I never felt so dirty in all my life. Maybe if I make the water hotter, it will wash it all away, I thought.

*Jim Bakker, I Was Wrong, (Nelson, 1996), p. 21.*