

1Cor 6.19—You are not your own

We are not our own

- The principle of proprietorship either makes or breaks all sin.
- Standing behind the overarching axiom of 1Cor 10.31 is this foundational truth: that we're not our own, but belong body and soul to the Lord our God who made us, redeemed us, and now indwells us, Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 1.
- God has the right to do with us what He wills and He has the final say over what we do with ourselves.
- Whatever ownership we have over self and stuff is merely the ownership of a guardian, steward, and servant, 2Cor 5.9-10, 15; Rom 14.7-9

Living sinfully as if we were our own

- I. When we make our own *reason* our supreme rule, either doctrinally or practically.
 - A. We sin against God when we make our reason the last stop of everything we mean to believe and do and act as if we have the right to veto what we don't like and issue executive orders in God's face
 1. 1Cor 1.20-21; 1Sam 15.23; 2Cor 10.5
 - B. God gave us our reason. But it's to be used for His glory, bound by His Word, and in service to that loving childlike faith which takes the mind of God in His Word as our sole and supreme rule.
- II. When we make our own *will* our ultimate law and authority.
 - A. In a sense, every contest between God and man is whose will will stand, Ex 5.1-2; Ex 20.1-11; Ps 2.1-3; Lk 19.14
 - B. Isa 2.12-17; Ex 14.1-3; 13-14, 26-28
 - C. Let us clothe ourselves with humility and submit to God, 1Pet 5.5
- III. When we make our own *interest* our chief end.
 - A. We sin against God when we make our interests our chief end and give little to no thought of His glory, 1Cor 10.31; Prov 3.9
 - B. God allows us to seek pleasure & profit for ourselves, but that allowance is not without parameters and safeguards which preserve His rightful place as God and promise His glory.

Living by faith because we're *not* our own, but God's

- I. A *determination* to part ways with both self and all others when they stand in competition with God's rule over us, Acts 4.19; 5.29; Gen 39.9
- II. An *unqualified resolution* to obey all the revealed will of God, 1Sam 3.10
 - A. The selfish have limits, reservations, and lines they won't cross in their bargain with Christ; but Christ's true disciples laid all that on the altar the day they waved the white flag of surrender and begged Him for mercy, Ps 116.16
- III. A *fixed and steady resignation* unto God, Song 2.16; Pss 119.97; 116.7; 130.5-6
 - A. The selfish cling to God only until the danger passes; but true disciples follow Him steadfastly from a change of heart, Ex 21.5-6
- IV. A *diligent concern* to please God and promote His interest, work, and glory, Col 1.10; Rom 13.14; 2Cor 11.28-29; Mt 26.39
 - A. The selfish will give God what the flesh can spare; but those whose hearts and lives are owned by God find their purpose, joy, happiness, peace, and life, in living for Him and His.

Questions for Self-examination

- I. Whose do you see and claim yourself to be?
 - A. Does your life give a different answer?
- II. Do you live as if you were your own?
 - A. How do you plan to answer for that kind of life when God calls you to an account for all that was actually His own? 2Cor 5.10
- III. Do you know yourself to be the Lord's, body and soul?
 - A. Then how do you strive to live that out in your daily life, work, marriage, family, and home?
 - B. Repent of where you've fallen short, Isa 55.6-7
 - C. Praise God for every evidence of your sincere and practical submission to His Lordship over you, 1Cor 15.10; Gal 2.20
 - D. And beg Him to finish what He's started in you until you're perfectly conformed to Christ, Rom 8.29; 1Th 5.23-24