

1Cor 6.20, Part 2—So Glorify God in Your Body

Introduction

- I. Paul's addressing some confusion and abuse of his teaching in the Corinthian church, cf. 1Cor 8.8
- II. Some of the Corinthians used his teaching about our freedom from Jewish food laws to justify their sinful gluttony. A remedy against Jewish legalism was soon turned into a license for Greek libertinism.
 - A. Paul corrects this abuse with two qualifiers in v.12, and then transitions to the much bigger issue: sexual immorality.
- III. Some had reasoned: "if there's no moral significance to what I put in my body's *stomach*, then there's no moral significance to what I do *with my body as a whole*," which opened the door to sexual immorality.
 - A. Paul confronted this wickedness in six arguments that effectively established a biblical theology of the body, a theology that should guard against all abuses of the body, especially the abuse of it by sexual sin.

Six arguments support this exhortation

- I. Our bodies weren't made for sexual sin, v.13. They were created for the service, honor, and glory of God, our Creator.
 - A. You don't have the right to alter that purpose or to put your body on a trajectory aimed at an alternate end-point.
 - B. God made no mistakes with any person. There are no accidents to the body you have, whether male or female, Gen 1.26-27
- II. Our bodies are destined to be raised up for a share in Christ's glory, v.14. So we shouldn't defile and corrupt them with sin.
 - A. The stomach is a facet of the temporary nature of life on earth, but the body is not. It has its destiny in glory with Christ.
 - B. To give the body to sexual sin is a gross defiling of it.
- III. Our bodies are united to Christ's own body, so that when we commit sexual sin with our bodies, we take the members of Christ's body into that sin and do Him an unspeakable dishonor, vv.15-17
 - A. Having united Himself to you, Christ can't check Himself at the door when you give yourself to sexual sin. You drag Him into that act and shame with you, cf. Ps 51.4
- IV. Sexual sin is committed against our bodies in a way that no other sin is, v.18
 - A. Sexual sin abuses the body from within, defiling the very spirit of a person—a spirit united to Christ's Holy Spirit.
- V. Our bodies are temples of God's Holy Spirit and sexual sin defiles, desecrates, and profanes that temple, v.19
 - A. To justify us, God unites us to Christ so that we participate in His holiness. And then to sanctify us, He indwells us with His Spirit so that we grow in conformity to that holiness.
 - B. When we take our bodies and give them to sexual sin, we're working radically at cross purposes with God.
- VI. We were bought with a price of infinite value and are in no sense our own to do with ourselves or with our body what we want.

- A. Instead, we're under the greatest obligation to yield ourselves, body and soul, to the pleasure of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Application

- I. Do you not see for what holy purposes God made your body?
 - A. You were created for the honor and glory of the Almighty and living God. Nothing so cuts at cross purposes with God's purposes for your body as the sins of sexual immorality.
- II. Do you not see what high regard God has for your body? Ps 139
 - A. You belong to the Lord Jesus Christ! What a royal and divine employment! What a blessed service! What an honor!
- III. Do you not see what sexual sin does to your body?
 - A. Sexual sin is a selfish use of the body—the epitome of selfishness. God confined it within marriage for good reason, Gen 2.22-25
 - B. Sexual sin is a perversion of the use of the body.
 - C. Sexual sin is an enslaving of the body to sinful passions. The Lord's words in Jn 8.34 are never more true than with sexual sin.
 - D. Sexual sin is an abuse of the soul for the body's sinful pleasures.
 - E. Sexual sin is self-destructive. A life of sexual sin is utter insanity.
 - F. For believers, sexual sin robs the Redeemer and the indwelling Spirit of the right they have to its usefulness.
 1. No wonder sexual sin is the devil's #1 tool.
- IV. Thinking rightly about sex.
 - A. God created sex good and put it in the confines of marriage to serve His purposes.
 - B. Charges
 1. Keep sex within marriage, Heb 13.4
 2. Guard yourselves and your children against the many lies of our culture today about sex by knowing the truth.
 - C. Encouragements
 1. The blood of Jesus cleanses from all sexual sin, 1Jn 1.9
 2. There is grace to help you resist and overcome temptations to sexual sin, 1Cor 10.6-13
 3. The Word of God alone can correct the confusion today surrounding sex, gender, and marriage, 2Tim 3.16-17. Bring your heart and mind to the Scriptures and God will teach you.
- V. Pray for each other. Pray for sexual purity. Pray for compassion for the sexually broken. Pray for a living witness of sexual purity to a world held captive by sexual sin.