



ADDRESSING THE ISSUES "Sexual Morality" 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

No. 2554

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Given Corinth's reputation for sexual permissiveness, Paul found it necessary to give the young believers in that city some basic teaching on sexual morality. What he had to say is most needful for the church in our culture today.

I. Liberty Has Its Limits. vv. 12-14

A. The appeal of slogans.

1. "Everything is permissible for me."
 - a. Paul's response to Jewish legalism? e.g. Galatians 5:1, 13
 - b. Gnostics' twisting of it to their liking.
 - i. Material is inferior to spiritual...
 - ii. ...physical is a matter of indifference...
 - iii. So do what ever feels good.
2. "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food."
 - a. Stomachs have appetites we satisfy—food.
 - b. Bodies have appetites we satisfy—sex.

B. The application of principle.

1. That which is permissible may not be beneficial.
 - a. For the individual.
 - b. For the community.
2. That which liberates may eventually dominate.
 - a. The liberty that becomes license.
 - b. The freedom that becomes a fetter.
3. That which God created must be enjoyed as He dictated.
 - a. Bellies are made for food—and God will destroy them.
 - b. Bodies are made for the Lord—and God will raise them.
 - c. Bellies and bodies should not be confused—or appetites.

II. Logic Has Its Conclusions. vv. 15-17

- A. The body of the believer is a member of Christ.
- B. Sexual intercourse unites two persons.
- C. Therefore, intercourse with a prostitute unites Christ with a prostitute.
 1. Unites the holy with the profane.
 2. Unites He who stands for love with one who models lust.

III. Lordship Has Its Challenges. vv. 18-20

- A. The challenge of possession—"bought at a price."
- B. The challenge of purpose—"your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit."
- C. The challenge of purity—"flee from sexual immorality."
- D. The challenge of priority—"honor God with your body."

Points to Ponder: Is my sexual morality God honoring? What do I need to flee?