



PREACHING THE CROSS
God's Remedy for a Troubled Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LAKE ORION

The Liberty that Enslaves

Sunday, July 3, 2016

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TEXT: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

With a series of slogans that emphasized their freedom, the Corinthians were justifying their immorality. True liberty comes from God when we are liberated from the worry of losing our standing with God because of sin, and when we are freed to fulfill our divine purpose— to glorify God in our bodies.

I. THE FIRST SLOGAN: *All Things are lawful for me, 6:12.*

A. The Corinthians Wrongly Applied this Slogan to *Christian Liberty* for the purpose of cloaking immorality, *All things are lawful for me.*

1. Freedom in Christ is a theological truth Paul constantly emphasized, Gal. 5:1, 13.

2. The problem was that the Corinthians were using this theological truth as the basis to excuse ungodly bodily appetites, Gal 5:13.

B. Paul Responds to the Slogan by Qualifying it, . . . *not all things are profitable. . . I will not be mastered by anything,*

Christian liberty must be governed by two qualifying principles:

1. Qualification one— It must be expedient.

Christian liberty is the believer's freedom to engage in helpful and advantageous activities that actually promote spiritual growth.

2. Qualification two— It cannot be enslaving.

Christian liberty is the believer's freedom from the idolatrous activities that enslave worshipping creatures.

II. THE SECOND SLOGAN: *Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, and God will do away with both of them, 6:13a.*

A. The Corinthians Wrongly Applied this Slogan to Show the Irrelevance of the Body.

B. Paul Responds to this Slogan by Demonstrating That the Body Is Significant, *Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. 14 Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power, 6:13b-14.*

The believer's body is important to God and should be valued. It is the temple of the Holy Spirit according to 1 Corinthians 6:19. As such, the *body matters to God!*

1. The believer's body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body, 6:13b.
2. The believer's body will be powerfully resurrected by God, 6:14.
3. The believer's body is a member of Christ, 6:15, 17.
4. The believer's body is the dwelling place of the Spirit, 6:19a.
5. The believer's body belongs to God, 6:19b.

III. THE THIRD SLOGAN: *Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, 6:18b.*

A. The Corinthians Wrongly Applied the Slogan to Suggest That Sin Does Not Have a Physical Dimension to It, but Is Purely Spiritual.

The Corinthians were saying that "All sin, whatever it is that a man commits, is outside the body."

B. Paul Responds to this Slogan by Demonstrating That Sin Has a Physical as Well as a Spiritual Dimension to it, *but the immoral man sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, 6:18c-19a.*

Paul points out that there is one sin in particular that *is* against one's own physical body, namely sexual immorality.

1. The believer's body is joined to Christ and immorality breaks the one-flesh relationship God intended with Christ thus making this sin *against the body*.
2. The believer's body has been redeemed *at a price*, thus making his body the possession of another—God, *Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 6:19.*

IV. THE IMPERATIVES & APPLICATIONS , 6:18, 20.

A. Paul's First Command, *Flee immorality, 6:18.*

1. Run from any sexual activity that compromises the believer's intimate union with Christ, cf. Gen. 39:6ff.
2. Pray for the Indwelling Spirit to replace the strong desires of physical pleasures with the spiritual desire for Christ alone, cf. Psalm 16:11.

B. Paul's Second Command, *Glorify God in your body, 6:20.*

1. Before engaging in any personal relationship, make known that your body in belongs to God.
2. Before involvement in any enjoyable activity, recognize that your body is the present habitation of the Spirit of God.
3. Before considering an opportunity of life that will require your physical energies, realize that God has purchased your body at a cost on the cross for a higher calling— *His glory NOT yours.*

God is to be honored with the deeds of our bodies!