

Honoring God with Our Bodies
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Jerry Grey-Part 2
3-10; 6-23

Introduction:

There were two extremes in Paul's Day:

1. Asceticism – denial and mutilation.
2. Extreme License- lasciviousness.

Views of the body – Greek thought. The body is material, therefore, the body is evil. With thinking that the body is evil there are two directions one would go. First, since the body was evil, the person denies the craving of the flesh and leans toward asceticism. Second, since the body is evil, nothing one does in the flesh matters so anything goes... lasciviousness. Some Greeks would say the body gets destroyed so you will not be judged for what takes place in the flesh. The first is legalism and the second is liberality. Both are wrong.

Our second major point is:

II. The Failure of Freedom Verses 12-17

There is a spiritual freedom which comes with maturity. It is also the same freedom that causes failure. Paul says in Romans 14:22 that we have freedom in maturity but freedom can get us into trouble, too.

Rom 14:22

Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves.

NIV

Rom 14:22

Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

KJV

“If any man thinks he stands – take heed lest he fall.”

* Pride and thinking too highly of ourselves gets us in trouble.

Anything that is called sin, and is against the law, does not apply to verse 12. Murder, lust, greed, and anger do not apply here. Fornication is not permissible. Got it?

Verse 12: “Everything is permissible or **lawful** to me” was a prideful Corinthian saying. **ἔξεστιν** (All to be) To be lawful, may, or allow. Paul refers to gray areas in our food, drink, and certain actions, not know disobedience.

Profitable - *Sumpherō* - “**to be an advantage.**”

To think we can sin or do with our bodies whatever we please is not biblical.

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

NIV

Galatians 5: 13-14

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free, but do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

Yes, we are free from the law, and we are justified, but we are not free to just do as we please. There are limits to our actions. The scripture uses the term “**moderation**” in reference to our behavior. However, spiritually speaking, our witness to others is also to be taken into account. Remember time, turf, and terms

(context). What time is it; who is with you; where are you at; what is the situation?

- * We are now motivated by a different law. (Romans 8:1)
I obey God now out of love for my new Savior. I obey because I'm saved, not to be saved.

The Law of The Spirit

Rom 8:1-8

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit** of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. 6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; 7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. 8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

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The law of the Spirit... what a great idea? What a great spiritual advantage for us. You don't have to memorize a thousand laws; you just need to be born again and listen to the Spirit within you. As a NT believer, you will encounter many things that you cannot find a law that tells you what to do. So what should you do in that case? Ask the Spirit for guidance. The freedom involved in this

truth is enormous. Christian maturity has no limits with this truth. You carry the law maker with you continually.

Rom 8:26-27

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

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Greek: The key to permission!

“I will not be mastered.” **ἐξουσιάζω** – (FPI) to bring under the power of someone or some-thing, to put under the authority of something (**τινος, any**). **“Permissive pass.”** I will not allow. This can be anything that controls your desires that brings destruction. Nothing is supposed to control you but the Spirit.

This is the key to practical holiness.

Controlling inappropriate fleshly desires –

- Food, drinks (Cokes, coffee, alcohol, tea, e.g.) sex, pornography, anger, phobias, pride, drugs, habits, and so on.

Here is where we fail. We are theologically justified and sanctified, and we fail in the sins of the flesh when we get mastered. Stay in control.

Verse 13:

The Corinthians would say sex and the body were like the stomach and food. The stomach likes food so you should eat like you want. The body likes sex, so all is game. Our culture is no different than the Corinthian culture of Paul's day.

Paul corrects this thought. God will destroy both food and stomach. This biological process will have no place in heaven.

Not so the body!

The body is **not** made for sexual immorality.

But for the Lord.

* The body is the avenue for service,
and the Lord for the body.

- The text does **not** say sex is wrong, only that is not its main purpose.
- The text does not say food and drink is wrong. The body is actually made for eating, drinking, and sex. But, the body is not made for **porneia** or sexual immorality.
- I want to go on record as saying homosexuality, drunkenness, overeating, and being under the control of anything other than the spirit is immorality. Some people that are big are not under the control of food. They just have terrible genes. Some people that are skinny are gluttons.
- Our bodies are made for the Lord and the Lord for our bodies. My body is a vessel to do the bidding of my Master. What I do on Monday-Saturday is not to interfere with what I do on Sunday. Remember- In 3:16-17 we are told we are the temple or sanctuary of the Spirit of God. If I hinder the ministry God gives me by my food, drink, and habits, then I have sinned.

Verse 14: Our bodies are important to God!

The body of Jesus was raised up and so will your body. Your body is the vehicle for service, worship, and displaying the Glory of God.

Rapture – Your body is important. It was redeemed, made new, sanctified and will be glorified. You need to shout about this!

Illustration: Read Romans 6 (Note water Baptism is spoken of in verse 3).

Rom 6

What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**

5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— 7 because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 **Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.** 13 **Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of**

righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

*15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.***

19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, **the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

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Verse 15:

It's not just your spirit that is a part of Jesus - All of you is identified with Christ.

Immersion pictures this.

- Don't tell me that baptism by immersion doesn't matter. It does. Tell me how the death, burial, and resurrection can be pictured with sprinkling? How can you picture the theology

that your entire body is to be used as an instrument of righteousness by your living out the law of the Spirit. You can't do it.

John MacArthur, *Your body is not only for the Lord but “of” the Lord.*

Romans 12:5 – “So in Christ we who are many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Our sin unites Christ and the rest of the body to our iniquity. We belong to God... God belongs to us... we belong to each other.

Greek - μέλη – Members – Literally – affinity, an arm, leg, etc.

If I read this correctly, it shows the spiritual implication of sin in the body. Adultery or fornication unites Christ's body to the prostitute and also the church as a whole.

Never do this. We are to have mutual reciprocity for each other. Everywhere we go and everything we do, we take Jesus with us. We are responsible to each other. We are literally to submit to each other. Did you know this?

Verse 16:

This verse speaks greatly to the sacredness of the sexual union between husband and wife.

κολλάω – To join in intimate sexual relations. To cleave, or join together. Same word as Matt 19:5... “a man will leave his father and mother and “**cleave**” unto his wife.”

Genesis 2:4 Leave father and mother and be united to his wife and they become one flesh. Adultery divides the flesh. Fornication divides the flesh.

The Christian divides himself from Christ and the body of Christ with these sins. Intercourse makes you one with another person.

Causal sex is not acceptable. Sex with a person that you are not married to releases emotions and chemistry that last forever. That's why it does so much damage. You have united yourself to one you have no intention of staying with forever. If you have intercourse with someone and become pregnant, you will soon discover what forever means. You become one with them in the flesh. You may hate the father afterwards but you are connected forever. You have a child together and both have equal rights to the child. Think before you become promiscuous. Wait until marriage.

Verse 17: The greatest privilege we have. Why damage that?

Jesus told Nicodemus – “You need to be born from above.”

Isaiah 59:2 – “But your iniquities have **separated** you from your God.”

In Christ you are “united,” “sin separated.”

Romans 8:1

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **in** Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:11

¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God **in** Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:2

To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified **in** Christ Jesus.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith **in** Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith **in** Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith **in** Christ and not by

observing the law, because by observing
the law no one will be justified.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ And you also were **included in** Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked **in** him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Philippians 3:9

⁹ and be found **in** him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith **in** Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is of faith.

Colossians 1:28-29

²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect **in** Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 2: 9-11

⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and you have been given fullness **in** Christ. Who is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ **In him** you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self-ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

1 Peter 5:10

¹⁰ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory **in** Christ,

If we are in Christ, let us not use our freedom wrongly and end up mastered by another.

III. The Fabric of Honor – Glory God in Your Body: Verses 18-20

Greek: Flee, run - Present Imperative

- Do it
- Do it now
- Keep on Running

An honorable man or woman does whatever it takes to get holiness in and sexual immorality out of their lives. Plan ahead. Make a choice before you are confronted. If this happens, then I will do this. Make holy choices ahead of time.

Sexual sins are the most alluring and controlling. The sexual drive is the most powerful drive you have. Look at its destruction. All of our drives used to be holy, but after the fall, they became corrupt.

* Are you willing to do whatever it takes? Change jobs, change towns, change friends, whatever it takes to flee. Your holiness and obedience is most important.

Sin is so cruel it makes us sin against our own bodies. How devastating is that? Dr Rogers says sin makes us sin against ourselves, our God, our family, our friends, nation, and our church body. Purity goes beyond ourselves. So does immorality. A man slowly kills himself with the sins of the flesh. He literally poisons himself bit by bit.

* He delivers himself his own death.

Spurgeon on sin:

Quote: Spurgeon said of sin-

- “Sin is a disease – with his stripes we are healed.”
- “Sin is abnormal – it takes the crown from our head, the light from our minds and the joy from our hearts.”
- “Sin is a disorder – it takes the faculties of man and changes their order. We live to eat instead of eat to live.”
- “Sin undermines – it is a disease that weakens man. Moral energy is broken down. Sin is a secret bleeding that robs the vital parts of nourishment.”
- “Sin numbs the nature – The more sinful a man is the less he is conscious of sin.”
- “Sin is impure – It pollutes man. You can exist in sin but not truly live. Sin deprives us of spiritual sight, hearing, feeling and taste. It steals the joy of life.”
- “Finally, Sin is fatal – Ezekiel 18:4 ‘ The soul that sinneth, it shall die.’”

Isaiah 53:5 ~ By His stripes we are healed. This is the cure for sin

* We really are responsible for our own demise.

Verse 19: What is a sanctuary? It is a safe and restful place of security. When we sin, we disturb the sanctuary where the Spirit lives. This text teaches the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The **hagiu pneumatos** lives in your **soma**, which is the **naos**, temple.

The 3rd person of the trinity lives in you.

Did you hear me? I said, God lives in you!

** No other cult, religion, or *ism* claims such. If anything ends with *ism* it is a cult.

The Greeks saw the body as evil, and God chose to sanctify it and live in it with the Holy Spirit. You need to stop and think about this.

Illustration:

Do you know it when you have company in your house. You cannot live with another person in the same house and not know they are there. If the Spirit is in you, you will know it. His Spirit bears witness to your spirit that you are a child of God.

The fabric of my honor and purity is God, via the Holy Spirit, living in my soul – witnessing, convicting, loving, encouraging, strengthening, purifying, and holding me.

Illustration:

By the way, while I am here, I would like to address the fact that we do not own our bodies. Your body, your choice, isn't biblical. That may be true for the ascetic and the hedonists, but not the Christian. Abortion is immorality because it kills an unprotected and vulnerable human in the womb. If you have unprotected sex, you have to biblically take the responsibility for your uniting your body with another person. Not your body and it's not your choice. The last phrase in verse 19 is God's word, not mine. Deal with it. God did not give you your body; he redeemed it.

Verse 20:

If we have a foundation in salvation, and learn to control our freedom, and yield to the Holy Spirit –

*******We shall honor God with our body. Your main goal as a Christian is to glorify God. Period.

Why? Because you were bought off the auction block.

Greek: Aorist passive indicative, **bought... αγοραζω, agorazo.** From **agora**, market place. You were literally bought like a slave off the auction block of hell by Jesus' blood. Jesus publicly bought you and purchased you with the blood of sacrifice. His blood is the only acceptable and qualified blood for the payment.

You cannot claim to own your own body and say you can live anyway you choose because you are not the Master of your existence.

Greek: Bought at a “price,” τιμη, time, pronounced timey. This means highest price. Highest price, honorable, precious, valuable or esteemed money paid. You were bought at a price with blood that was sacred, select, and solitary. No other currency of any kind could have saved you.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, 19 but with the **precious (time)** blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

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Therefore, glorify God in your body. What does this mean? Here is my take on this. Some mss add the phrase, and in your spirit” to this text. The translation would be glorify God in your body and in your spirit. Let’s make it practical. The context here is immorality so we are to think from that area. The admonition is to bring God into the equation and your decision making when you are about to decide on a particular behavior.

Would these behaviors glorify God?

- Abortion
- Adultery
- Drunkenness
- Smoking drugs
- Stealing
- Lying
- Gossiping
- Coarse language and foolish joking
- Unforgiveness
- Jealousy
- Hatred
- Murder
- Lust
- Greed
- Anger
- Rage

You get the idea.

- Witnessing
- Giving
- Serving
- Praying
- Self-control
- Forgiveness
- Selflessness
- Mercy
- Grace
- Love
- Faith
- Hope

- Comforting a friend
- Discipline
- Worship
- Holiness
- Teaching scripture
- Tending the flock
- Shepherding
- Preaching
- Using spiritual gifts
- Patience
- Putting others first (For Witness Sake)

The word glory refers to giving weight to something. Importance. Giving your spiritual life weight or importance. **It's about priority.**

Because we have been redeemed, and bought, all of us are to be thankful and never put a soul on a pedestal.

May people don't understand their purchase. There are benefits to be owned by the Master.

Closing:

Illustration:

A man who bought a slave woman and set her free. She spit on him until she realized he was genuine.

She then turned and came back to willingly be a slave and honor her master, willingly. How can we not do the same. Sounds like the book of Philemon doesn't. No longer a slave; still a slave.

Glorify God with your body. The word glorify means to cause one to have a good opinion of someone.

I want you to have a good opinion of God as **I** glorify Him with **my** body.

In other words, when you see me live out my Christian life, you see the glory of God and give Him yours. Our job is to reflect our Master.

1 Peter 2:12

12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

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