

I Corinthians 6:15-20

As Bereans were known for their study and scripture knowledge because of Acts 17:11, the Corinthians were known for their **car**nality. Paul has been instructing them (kindly-firmly) in these first six chapters. In Chapter 7, he will be answering a series of their questions on certain topics. But here he finishes **re**buking them for their licentiousness.

A. I Corinthians 6:15 - Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1. Paul is saying: "Don't you know **who** you are? You are a member in-of Christ's body."

Ephesians 5:30-32 - For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. Eph. 5:31 - For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. Eph. 5:32 - This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

a. *Christ is our Head and we are His body. Our total being, soul-spirit, and our body, is united in one **uni**on with Christ.

I Corinthians 12:12 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

b. Being part of the Body of Christ (all those saved during today's dispensation) is unique to today's Dispensation of Grace. Israel was not a Body, but a Nation. In Israel, one needed to become a **Jew** in their beliefs. But with the Body, no matter if you were Jew or Gentile, one only needed to **be**lieve in the gospel.

Ephesians 2:13-15 - But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:14 - For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; Eph. 2:15 - Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even* the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so* making peace;

2. Unlike the law-legalism that points its finger in one's face putting them down, grace **rea**sons with scripture logic concerning their sinning.

[shall (question) I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid.]

a. *That is a scandalous suggestion. Think, to take Jesus Christ and make Him a member of an harlot, Outrageous! Or to **join** Christ to a prostitute, unthinkable.

b. Here, the Apostle Paul is using the principle of association to wake them up to what they were doing. Paul wants to **sho**ck them into reality regarding their sin.

B. I Corinthians 6:16-17 - What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. I Cor. 6:17 - But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

1. Wrong sexual relationships are not as casual as they seem. As in a marriage union, immoral actions create a union of **flesh** between participants. Because the believer is united to Christ, in the act of immorality one sexually joins Christ to the harlot (I'm in Him and He is in me).

*So Paul says: "before committing immorality, **think** of the shame and reproach it brings upon Christ" (Jimmy Swaggart).

2. Verse 17 shows the believer's union with Christ is a spiritual one.

a. I Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 3:27-28 - For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.
Gal. 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

*It is the Holy Spirit who **identifies** (baptizes) all believers with Christ in our spiritual union.

b. Paul is telling the Corinthians not to stain their spiritual relationship with Christ, as they are part of His Body. They should not allow their physical immorality and sin to disrupt or damage their spiritual union with Christ's **testimony**. Our practice is to reflect our **position** in Christ.

C. I Corinthians 6:18 - Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

1. To flee means to **run** from, to escape from, to live a disciplined life so that when confronted with fornication, you know **how** to get out of there.

Remember, this was the practice with the Corinthians. The goddess Aphrodite had a temple dedicated to her at Corinth. Her devotees were called temple slaves, but were nothing but **prostitutes. They were easy to identify because they shaved their heads. Paul says: "Flee."

II Timothy 2:22 - Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

I Thessalonians 4:3 - For this is the will of God, *even* your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

2. [Every sin that a man doeth is without the body;]

a. Fornication begins in the mind-heart, in the inner man **mentally** through his thoughts.

Matthew 5:28 - But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Mark 7:21 - For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

Romans 13:14 - But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

*That is the reason Paul says: Philippians 4:8 - Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

b. [but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.] Fornication is a controlling danger which in turn damages and diseases the body.

*In other words, God's judgment awaits it. It can damage one's testimony, family, **church**, and even their body with venereal diseases such as herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, and AIDS.

Paul's practical answer: I Corinthians 7:9 - But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

D. I Corinthians 6:19 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

1. Paul is saying: "Can't you perceive or comprehend who you are in Christ? Do you not understand the Holy Spirit lives in you (Body) making you the temple of God's **presence**? We have been set apart for God's use since He owns us. We have passed from being a slave to sin to willingly, freely, becoming His servant.

Romans 6:18 - Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

2. The believer is one who can recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit within him and understands that he does not belong to himself, but to **God**. It is the Holy Spirit who **constantly** keeps us in a daily, current, moment-by-moment relationship with the Father.

Romans 8:9-11 - But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. Rom. 8:10 - And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. Rom. 8:11 - But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Philippians 2:13 - For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

*Since we now are in Christ with our new position as a saint, is not this reason **enough** to avoid fornication with its consequences? Since through His presence we have become **sacred** to God, shouldn't we remain pure for Him? And since He now owns us for His glory, what right do we have to sin against our **Master**?

E. I Corinthians 6:20 - For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

1. God has allowed His **only** begotten Son to die so we could be saved. Why then shouldn't He be allowed to tell us His will that we are **com**manded to follow?

Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

* | The right of ownership goes with paying the **price** of redemption. Once we believers were owned
* | by sin, but we were purchased out of our slavery to be owned by another, **God**! The price was God's own Son's blood.

Ephesians 1:7 - In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

I Peter 1:18-19 - Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; I Peter 1:19 - But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

2. In view of everything Paul has said here, he commands them to [therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.]
 - a. *Since knowing we have been liberated in Christ, we can now glorify, praise Him for what He has **done** in our behalf.

- b. The way they could glorify God in their bodies is that the next time they come into the presence of the harlots with their **luring** conduct, they would turn to God, therefore glorifying Him. They, through the blood of Christ, had power and strength to overcome the temptation or to **run**.

*Always remember, victory over temptation is always due to Christ's redeeming them.

I Corinthian 10:13 - There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*.

- c. The area that is most observable as to the change in your life is your **body**. But it also says [in your spirit]. Again, the body is the **servant** of what is going on **inside** of one. Our spirit has been made alive when it is fed the truth of God's Word that is **demonstrated** through the action of one's body.