



The Book of 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Session Twenty-two

In our previous session, we covered 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. There was something I wanted to cover before we left this passage. The terminology can be confusing if we are not aware of what is being said, and I want to make sure we all understand it properly.

1 Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that **the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Do not misinterpret these verses. They are not saying that anyone who does these things will not “go to heaven.” These verses have often been used to teach that saved people who do these things can lose their salvation, or never were saved to start with.

By now I hope you know that a justified member of the BoC cannot lose his/her salvation. You should have confidence in your justified status in Christ because you understand that you were not saved by anything you did, and therefore cannot lose that salvation by anything you do. But, we can lose reward, and that should mean something to every believer.

So, who are the “unrighteous” who shall not “inherit the kingdom of God?” It refers to those who are not justified unto eternal life (JUEL); the lost. The behaviors listed in vv. 9-10 are not being done by those who have been justified (made righteous). How do we know this? Look at vs. 11: “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified...”. Paul says this in spite of the fact that the Corinthians are still doing many of these things!

Paul is saying, the things in that list, that used to be some of you Corinthians, (that used to be who you were in Adam) but now, you have been justified and sanctified and you should be living in connection with your new identity in Christ. Paul is saying that those unjustified people shall not “inherit the kingdom of God.” I hope this clears up any confusion.

Now, let’s read the passage for today, and then we will look at the pattern of the doctrine.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.¹³ Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.¹⁴ And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.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.¹⁶ What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.¹⁷ But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.¹⁸ Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.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?²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

The Pattern of the Doctrine:

Reproof: 6:12-13a

Correction: 6:13b-17

Instruction in Righteousness: 6:18-20

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

When Paul says “all things are lawful for me,” he is not saying that it is impossible for him to sin, or that committing sin is okay. He is talking about his liberty in Christ.

Paul knows that he can do whatever he wants, and it will not affect his salvation. Because there has been an identity change from being “in Adam” to being “in Christ,” we are, no matter what we do, the righteousness of God in Christ.

But he cannot do what he wants and be conformed to the image of God’s Son. Our liberty in Christ is not a license to sin, but it supplies the freedom for Christ to live His life in us. It will be this issue which will be under review at the judgment seat of Christ (JSOC).

But even though Paul says that “all things are lawful,” he also says that “all things are not expedient.” Expedient means “beneficial or suitable.” In what way? Paul knows that if he caters to his flesh, he will not attain unto the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

What is that “high calling?” It the calling to a position of rulership in the HP. So, when Paul says “all things are not expedient” he is saying that there are some things we can do, and if we did,

they wouldn't be sin, but they can 1) distract us from the more important things, or 2) they can outright hinder us in our spiritual walk.

When Paul says he will "not be brought under the power of any," he is not just referring to bad things (such as those listed in vv. 9-10 in this chapter), but he is including things like the law and the "good deeds" of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 6:12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

What does it mean to be "brought under the power of any?" It means that you have developed a dependence upon something to the point that it is not likely that you can stop. Paul says that he is not going to allow himself to be controlled by or under the power of anything (other than the Lord).

Why? Because these are often the steppingstones for strongholds being built in our lives, and those give Satan an opportunity to do all kinds of things in us, such as:

- 1) blind us to the truth
- 2) convince us of his lie
- 3) implant his thoughts into our minds
- 4) deceive us as to the true nature of things (this isn't so bad, God doesn't exist, this life is more important than the one to come, etc.)
- 5) hinder our spiritual growth/convince us to quit our sonship lives.

1 Corinthians 6:13 Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

"Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats" is probably a common saying at the time of Paul, but I don't think Paul would have promoted it, since he says that God shall destroy both. This was a philosophy which over-emphasized food. We have heard the saying, "some eat to live, others live to eat." That latter phrase seems to fit the Corinthians. They were self-indulgent in food and fornication.

Finally, notice that Paul seems to revamp their saying. He changes it from "meats for the belly, and the belly for meats, to "the body for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." Our bodies are to be used to serve and glorify God, as we saw back in chapter 4.

1 Corinthians 4:10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.

Controlling our appetites are not a work of our flesh and will, but should be a result our spiritual growth. Grace living means allowing the doctrine we have learned to effectually work

to produce the life of Jesus in us. The things we do can then be Him doing them through us. The more conformed you are to Christ, the less you will be under the power of any other thing.

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

The future resurrection of our body is as sure as the resurrection of Christ. It is the blessed hope. Now, put those last verses together: our body is not for the fulfillment of our fleshly appetites but for serving the Lord. The body is significant to God now because He wants the life of His Son manifested in it. The body is significant to God in the future, as he will raise it up at the blessed hope (BH) to be powerful, glorious, incorruptible and spiritual. Therefore, let us not defile ourselves with sins, such as fornication and instead yield the members of our bodies unto the Lord.

Romans 6:13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: **but yield yourselves unto God**, as those that are alive from the dead, **and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.**

Romans 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now **yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**

Can you see how Paul is picking back up on Romans' doctrine in Corinthians?

1 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.

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

Fornication was a problem in the Corinthians assembly. We have already seen this in previous chapters. Here in chapter 6, Paul gives three reasons to "flee fornication." The first reason is here in vs. 15 and it has to do with us behaving in connection with our new identity in Christ.

In vs. 15, Paul is telling us that we are the members of Christ. That is who we are both individually and corporately. That is the principle.

In the second question in the verse, Paul makes an application of that principle: "shall I take the members of Christ and make them members of an harlot?" In other words, shall we join Christ to a prostitute? As Paul said, "God forbid."

Look, there are some things that may be done, which those who do them may not think about the implications of their actions. For example, for the believing remnant (BR), in the resumption of their program, if they ignore the marker that tells them to stop their witness to

the unsaved in Israel, they are doing something to Christ, which they do not realize they are doing. What is it they are doing?

Hebrews 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing **they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**

Which believer would want to re-crucify the Son of God and put Him to an open shame? Hopefully, no believer would want to do that. So, when they are told the way in which they are doing that, the truth of what they are doing is supposed to have an impact on them and stop them.

In the same way, Paul is here talking about how any believer, by their engagement in fornication is, in effect, joining Christ to a harlot!

Flee Fornication because:

1) We are putting our Savior to an open shame

We are His body, so whatever we allow in ourselves, we are allowing in connection with Christ. That is meant to make us stop and think about the fact that we are no longer doing things on our own, but as members of His body, we are dragging Him right along with us in everything we do, the things we see, the things we say and the places we go.

Did you notice that Paul said when a man joins himself unto a harlot, they become one flesh? That is marriage terminology! I know the world looks at this differently, but the world is being run by the Adversary who is leading the world down a path of misery and destruction.

(Ephesians 2:2)

1 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.

Here is the second reason to flee fornication, because of the effect it has on us.

Flee Fornication because:

- 1) We are putting our Savior to an open shame**
- 2) We are putting ourselves in bondage**

According to Paul, the sin of fornication is the only sin which a man commits against his own body.

Fornication leads to sexual bondage and this is one of Satan's primary ways of stunting your spiritual growth. When a man or woman fails morally, they have given ground in their soul to Satan. In all likelihood, this may have started even before you trusted Christ. Although those sins are under the blood and you will not lose your salvation, they will exact a heavy toll on your spiritual life.

If this has happened to you, then set aside a time when you get before God in prayer, just you and Him.

- **Identify 1st Moral Failure:** Ask God's Spirit to reveal to you the first time you violated God's moral law and began to give ground in your life to Satan. This is so you can identify the original lie which you believed. Allow God to walk you through your life and acknowledge all the areas that He brings to your mind.
- **Renounce the Lie:** Confess that these things are wrong, not so you can be forgiven, but so that you realize they are part of Satan's ploy to destroy you spiritually and in other ways too.
 - Understand that immorality produces a bond between people, especially on the female's part. This bond needs to be broken spiritually before it can be broken physically. If it isn't, there will be more failure in the future.
- **Announce the Truth:** Claim the spiritual authority that is yours in Christ; that you do not have to be subject to temptations or to Satan. You are seated in a position of authority at the right hand of Christ, above all of Satan's realm.
- **Identify Strongholds:** Acknowledge any strongholds that you see in your life and resolve to pull them down. When those thoughts come back into your mind, bring your thoughts into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Resist dwelling on them, fantasizing about them; but resist what Satan is trying to do in your mind, regain a foothold.
- **Make No Provision:** Resolve to guard your mind by refusing conversations, pictures, videos, books and thoughts that feed into the temptation.
- **Memorize Scripture:** And finally, identify scriptures that identify the truth and memorize them to use in times of temptation. Fight the "fire" of temptation with the "water" of the word of truth.

1 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? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Back in 1 Corinthians 3:16, we saw how that collectively, we (the BoC) are the "temple of God, and that the Spirit dwelleth in [us]." But here in chapter 6, Paul is talking to us individually.

Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. This is the 3rd reason to flee fornication.

Flee Fornication because:

- 1) We are putting our Savior to an open shame
- 2) We are putting ourselves in bondage
- 3) **Our body belongs to God**

What was the temple? It was God's house, the place where God manifested His presence. But now, God is not interested in a stone building, but He wants to live in a living temple; in us.

Even though our body has not yet been redeemed, every part of us belongs to God, including our body. Can God live in our human spirit? Yes. And where is that human spirit? It is in our body. Therefore, Paul says to "glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

This is why, back in the beginning of our education as sons in the book of Romans, Paul asked us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Now, he adds to that by asking us to "glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

This is the 3rd reason we are asked to flee fornication, because in fornication we are sinning against our body which does not just belong to us, but now it belongs to God.

Because God's Spirit lives within us, when we sin, we defile the place where God lives. And God wants us to think of it like that.