



1 Corinthians

WALKING **RIGHT SIDE UP** IN AN **UPSIDE DOWN** WORLD

WHO'S IN AND WHO'S OUT (PART 2)

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

THE ISSUE OF MASTERY . . . who is leading your hike?

- In light of God's amazing grace, should we really be still living as slaves to sin? The two basic abuses:
 1. Just because Christ has graciously forgiven our sin, it does not mean that *everything is beneficial* and that believers can now do what they know is wrong.
 2. Some actions are not sinful in themselves, but they are not appropriate because they can control our lives.

WE ARE CALLED TO BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT

Today, it is easy for Christians to overlook or tolerate some immoral behaviors—adultery, greed, drunkenness, gluttony, idolatry—while remaining outraged and vocal at others—homosexuality, rape, murder, thievery.

- We must not participate in sin or condone it in any way, *nor may we be selective about what we condemn or excuse*; God's word is the standard! Case in point, **Romans 1:28-32**.

FOOD VERSUS SEX v. 13

It is *true* that what one eats does not directly affect the eternal life of a believer; it is also not harmless, either. You cannot compare eating to sexual activity.

- Humans are a 3-part combination of material and spiritual: mind, spirit, and body.
- While the stomach was made for food, people's *bodies were not made for sexual immorality.*
- This sin is particularly harmful because it violates your created purpose!

THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE

Paul challenges us to a higher purpose than merely fulfilling our bodily sexual drives or desires.

- The Greek word for “body” (**soma**) used here refers to the whole physical being, spirit, and personality...
- not to the worldly “flesh” (just the physical); the Greek word for that is **sarx**.
- God’s care and concern for the physical bodies of His children began at Creation.

***SOCIETAL SEXUAL SATURATION* v. 15-16**

L.A. and Corinth are pretty much the same!

- Aphrodite's' temple employed more than a thousand prostitutes, and sex was part of the worship ritual.
- Sex is worshipped and a central driving force in our culture as well, so much so that people confuse sex with love—eros with agape.
- Sex is more than a mere physical act; instead, it unites a man and a woman in such a way that they become *one body*.

SEXUAL SIN WILL COST YOU!

Sexual sin is a violation of one's **own body** and consequently, **one's soul**; you are giving away part of your **very being** to a person with whom you have no spiritual connection or permanence.

- No other sin has the same effect on the memory, personality, or soul of a person as sexual sin—it cannot be fully erased. Forgiven? Yes, absolutely!

Thus, Paul says: don't walk, but run away from sexual sin—it can destroy your life.

NO, ACTUALLY, IT'S NOT "YOUR BODY"

One of the mantras of the uber-feminist movement

- Here in **verses 19-20** we find out believers ought to *honor God* with their bodies.
- Just as the temple was a place for worship, sacrifice, prayer, and communion with God, so should our bodies be used to implement these high purposes.
- Christ bought you with His life so you now belong to Him; it's actually not yours, He **made** and **paid** for you.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

1. The fornicator, adulterer, and homosexual may forget their sins, *but their sins will not forget them.*
2. There are *eternal* consequences for people who unrepentantly practice sexual sins. **1 Cor. 6:9-10**
3. A Christian may fall into these sins and also be forgiven, as was David; but no Christian would or should *practice* such sins. **1 John 3:1-10**

We are His bride, let's act like it and not be mastered by anything—especially sexual sin!