

1 Cor 6 pt 2 v12-20 - Read thru

Paul's continued correction, dealing with sticky subjects simply and forthrightly.

Hard talks sometimes result in edification.

[Pro 27:17 NKJV] 17 [As] iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

Sometimes they offend.

[Jhn 6:63-68 NKJV] 63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and [they] are life. 64 "But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. 65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father." 66 From that [time] many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

It is not our place to make adjustments - Kentucky windage - in anticipation of how God's word will fall on the heart of the hearer. It is our place to faithfully teach His word, and His word is Holy and good.

So here we go -

We finish chapter 6 with further instruction in holiness.

v.12 - just because it's lawful doesn't make it holy -

to tee this thing up, Paul is about to address the practice among BELIEVERS at Corinth who were soliciting prostitutes for sexual gratification....this is the church!

REF - 6:9-11

In Corinth it was lawful, and perfectly acceptable to conduct such behavior.

Greek Geographer Strabo writes (20AD) - The temple of Aphrodite was once so rich that it had acquired more than a thousand prostitutes, donated by both men and women to the service of the goddess. And because of them, the city used to be jam-packed and became wealthy. The ship-captains would spend fortunes there, and so the proverb says: "The voyage to Corinth isn't for just any man.

For a start, Aphrodite's servants, who may or may not have been attractive, were not exactly willing volunteers. In fact, Corinth's many cosmopolitan pornai, or prostitutes, were slaves purchased by wealthy Greeks and dedicated to the temple as a form of religious offering. (Once, a victorious athlete at the Olympic Games donated 100 women in a lump sum)....

Greek males were riotously chauvinistic. Even their wives were regarded

as property, suitable only for raising families; married Greek men went to prostitutes and young boys for “pleasurable sex.”

It would be easy for one to make allowance for their behavior in this culture - even to spiritualize their behavior “man, I’m just living out my liberty in Christ - after all it’s not against the law.”

Nothing can separate us from Christ - AND we are HIS! For His purposes.

[Rom 13:14 NKJV] 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to [fulfill its] lusts.

v.13 - the two are not equal in illustration - regardless of our “needs”

Food is for our stomach, but if we live by our stomachs we will perish.
Remember to feed your spiritual man!

We can’t use the excuse, well it’s the same thing, my body is made for personal gratification - this is how I meet my needs (more on this in Chapter 7).

God will destroy both it and them - all these things will perish.

[Deu 8:3 NKJV] 3 "So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every [word] that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.

Christ references this during his temptation in the wilderness in Matt/Luke 4.

v.14-15 - We ought not be driven by our physical urges like a dumb animal. You are holy and unique among all of God's creation.

[Rom 8:10-11 NKJV] 10 And if Christ [is] in you, the body [is] dead because of sin, but the Spirit [is] life because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Your bodies, the fullness of your being, are members of Christ! His spirit dwells in us.

Abide in me, and I in you (John 15)

Shall we join Christ with a prostitute? No! That's insane. Christ keeps companies with prostitutes and sinners (and such were some of us!) that he might snatch us out of the jaws of hell and make us holy vessels.

v.17-18 - the two become one -

the Bible is very plain about sexual sin - it is damaging in a way that we can scarcely imagine in the moment. Sometimes we don't realize the damage

we have received until years later - praise God for grace towards us and his healing.

this is a big deal - the two become one - there is something in our souls that is affected in this whole deal - it is not strictly physical.

How dare we drag our Lord into wickedness! He is with you believer - in you. To be joined with a prostitute or any other form of sexual immorality as a believer is to commit that sin in full company of Jesus Christ. His spirit dwells in us, and that is something that we can hang on a coat rack or in a closet when we decide we would like to be disobedient.

What do we do? Flee! We can't fight it, our over confidence will betray us. Run away! Live to fight another day.

v.19-20 - your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit - God dwells there!

Keep this in context. Paul is adamantly and pointedly referring to sexual sin because it was so prevalent in the church at Corinth! That is his point.

Be careful not to extrapolate as the Talmud does and leads to pharisaical observance while neglecting the weightier matters. In regards to this type of teaching we see the church in Jerusalem address the churches -

REF Acts 15

[Act 15:23-29 NKJV] 23 They wrote this [letter] by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. 24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "[You must] be circumcised and keep the law"--to whom we gave no [such] commandment-- 25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: 29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

The Bible is very clear about the topic of sex - and not in a weird way as is often depicted.

[1Th 4:3-8 NKJV] 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord [is] the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. 7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. 8 Therefore he who rejects [this] does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

You were bought at a price - you are not your own!