

1 ☐ **Studies in I Corinthians**

**“Christian Liberty and Sexual Sin”**

- I Corinthians 6:12-20 -

2 ☐ **Paul’s teaching about the believer’s freedom in Christ**

• **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” - “For you, brethren, have been called to liberty ...” Galatians 5:1 & 13**

• **“... the glorious liberty of the children of God.” - Romans 8:21**

3 ☐ **Paul’s teaching about the believer’s freedom in Christ**

• **“... you are not under law, but under grace.” Romans 6:14b**

• **“... now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law ...” Romans 7:6**

4 ☐

• **“God’s grace alone saves and grace alone keeps salvation. Christians are justified, counted righteous and holy in God’s sight (Rom. 4:22-25). ‘Who,’ therefore, ‘will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies’ (Rom. 8:33). *A Christian can commit no sin that is not already covered by God’s grace. No sin can forfeit his salvation.* No accusation can succeed against the believer. God is the highest court, and he has declared that believers are righteous. There is no higher appeal. That settles the issue.” - John MacArthur**

5 ☐ **“Everything is permissible for me.”- I Cor. 6:12**

• **When the Apostle Paul spoke of this freedom in Christ, he was always referring to the Christian’s freedom from works of righteousness as a means of salvation.**

• **The Corinthians, however, were perverting and exploiting this truth to justify their persistence in sexual sin.**

• **“... *shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?*” - Romans 6:1**

6 ☐ **A Philosophical Argument**

• **“... *food for the stomach and the stomach for food,*” - I Cor. 6:13**

• **An analogy or parallelism with the implied thought, “... sex for the body and the body for sex.”**

7 ☐ **The problems which led to this perversion of Christian liberty**

1) Liberty without limits

2) Logic without principle

3) Lewdness without liability

8 ☐ **Liberty without Limits**

- Some were taking sex out of its God-ordained context!
- They had constructed an argument which viewed sex as a mere biological function on the same level as eating food.
- [verse 13] - *“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food.”*

9 ☐ **Liberty without Limits**

- This argument grew out of the way Romans and Greeks viewed the body
- They believed the body was the prison or tomb of the soul.
  - ✓ Asceticism
  - ✓ Hedonism

10 ☐ **The proper context in which Christian liberty must be defined:  
Divine revelation about the body!**

- ✓ Sex is a divine creation!
- ✓ Sexual activity was a divine command
- ✓ Aberration is a divine concern!

11 ☐ **The essence of Christian freedom is that it delivers us “From” something “To” something:**

- From - All that hinders us from being all that God intended us to be
- To - be all that God made me to be!

12 ☐ **The divine revelation concerning our bodies**

- The redemption we have in Christ involves all that we are as an entity, our entire personality: physically, mentally, and emotionally; - body, spirit, and soul.
- I Cor. 6:14 - alludes to the fact that God will raise up our bodies after death, as He raised up Christ’s body!

13 ☐ **The divine revelation concerning our bodies**

- I Cor. 6:18-19 - tells us we are to “flee sexual sin” because our body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit.”
- I Cor. 12:27 says: *“... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”*

14 ☐ **Logic Without Principle**

- The Greek constituency of the Corinthian church were lovers of logic
- Two slogans which suggest some humanistic logic and clever rationalizing
- v. 12 - *“Everything is permissible for me”*
- v. 13 - *“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food”*

15 ☐ **The correct way to use Christian liberty involves logic which is guided by certain principles**

- [First principle] I Cor. 6:12a - *“‘Everything is permissible for me’ - but not everything is beneficial. ...”*
- [Second principle] I Cor. 6:12b - That which liberates may eventually dominate!
- [Third principle] I Cor. 6:13 - That which God conceived and created must be used and enjoyed according to His instructions!

16 ☐ **Paul also develops the divine logic behind these limitations**

- Premise #1 - A link exists between the body and the soul! [“psychosomatic”]
- Premise #2 - The Christian’s body is a member of Christ [i.e. Christ dwells in it!]
- Premise #3 - Sexual intercourse unites two people [i.e. two bodies, minds, hearts, persons]
- Premise #4 - Sexual intercourse outside of God-ordained limits is equivalent to uniting Christ [the holy] with that which is the opposite of all He is [the profane]! - This is unthinkable!

17 ☐ **Lewdness Without Liability**

- We live in a society which is obsessed with the idea of “freedom” without accountability!
  - “Freedom of choice”
  - “Freedom to choose an alternative life-style”
  - The perversion of the Founding Fathers’ idea of “Freedom of speech and expression”

18 ☐ **The challenges of the Lordship of Christ**

- *“... You are not your own; you were bought with a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”* - I Cor. 6:19b-20

- The challenge of purpose
- The challenge of purity
- The challenge of priority

19 ☐ **Application**

- 1) Define liberty in your life in such a way that it is governed by God ordained limits!

**2)Do not allow yourself to indulge in the godless rationale of this world which justifies sexual immorality. Instead, use logic that is guided by the principles of divine revelation.**

**3)Accept the challenges of the Lordship of Christ [purpose; purity; and priority!**