

Message #23

I Corinthians 6:12-20

God is looking for instruments that are sterile and clean.

Even though they WERE believers, some were becoming defiled with the things of this world. Some had lost their perspective of holiness and their passion for righteousness. Some looked more like the people of this world than they did the people of God's world and Paul wanted that corrected.

BELIEVERS ARE THE PROPERTY OF GOD AND THEREFORE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO GLORIFY GOD WITH THEIR BODIES AND SOULS.

Every believer has been saved by God and cleansed by God and God desires that every believer look like and act like one of His clean instruments. Many in this church were people who were self-centered and sinful. The Corinthian church was one of corruption and carnality. Each church is to reflect the glory of God, but for this church that objective had been lost.

PRINCIPLE #1 – The profitability principle. **6:12a**

A believer who glorifies God WILL NOT indulge in something simply because it is lawful, but also because it is profitable.

Paul IS NOT saying sin or sinful things is lawful for the believer. HE IS saying that the character and quality of all types of things not sinful are permissible for the believer.

Now you will notice the central point; even though ALL types of things are lawful for the believer, they may not be profitable, which means they might not be advantageous or useful for the believer.

They apparently did not care whether or not it caused another brother to stumble (8:9) or whether it edified a brother (10:23). Paul was the type of man who sought to bring every thought into captivity (II Cor. 5:10). God-glorifying believers will ALWAYS ask is this profitable?

PRINCIPLE #2 – The dominating principle. **6:12b**

A believer who glorifies God WILL NOT indulge in something simply because it is lawful; but also will analyze whether it will dominate. A believer who glorifies God WILL NOT be mastered or dominated by anything.

As we shall see from **verse 13**, Paul gives two specific illustrations of two specific things that if left unchecked can dominate a believer's life: food and sex.

PRINCIPLE #3 – The purposeful principle. **6:13-14**

A believer who glorifies God will not ONLY ask is it profitable or masterful, but will also ask what is God's purpose.

Point #1 - The body DOES have a God-ordained purpose for food. **6:13a**

Food literally exists for the stomach and a stomach has been put in the body by God with a specific need of food. God's view of food is this: Eating is legitimate and gluttony is not legitimate. It is not wrong to eat food; it is wrong to be dominated by food. The person who is dominated by food is a person being dominated by something that will not last for both the belly and the food will eventually pass away.

Point #2 - The body DOES NOT have a God-ordained purpose for immorality. **6:13b-14**

The Corinthians were making a carnal mistake of equating the fulfilling of the appetite for food with the fulfilling of the appetite for sex. The body was not designed or created by God to be involved in sexual immorality but it was designed to glorify the Lord. The stomach is not sacred, but the body is sacred. Sexual immorality IS a dominating force that controls people to such an extent that they will do bizarre things.

PRINCIPLE #4 – The membership principle. **6:15**

Three times in this verse the word “members” appears. It is a word that refers to a limb, as in a part of the body.

When a believer gets involved in immorality, he involves God in immorality. The whole body is affected because one of its members is in sin. For this very sin He will send people to hell (I Cor. 6:9-10; Rev. 21:8).

PRINCIPLE #5 – The union principle. **6:16-18**

When a believer gets involved in sexual immorality, he is actually uniting something unholy with the Holy God. Sex is not dirty or obscene; it is sacred. Some sins we must fight. Some sins we must resist. Sexual sin we must flee. God views sexual immorality as THE most severe and degrading sin.

View #1 - Sexual immorality is a sin of greater consequence than other types of sin.

View #2 - Every other type of sin requires some external matter; however, sexual immorality just requires a misuse of the body.

View #3 - Sexual immorality is a sin like no other in that it can damage the body like no other type of sin.

View #4 - Sexual immorality does not keep within his body the matter of sin, but actually goes outside of the body for the sin.

Sexual immorality is viewed differently by God. It is THE most serious sin in the sight of God, one that will ALWAYS bring His judgment.

PRINCIPLE #6 – The ownership principle. **6:19-20**

Every believer is God's property. He has been bought with the precious, priceless blood of Jesus Christ (i.e. Acts 20:28). As Dr. Richard Lenski said, "The Christian's body is the Spirit's sanctuary."

The believer's purpose is to glorify God.

What type of instrument are you this morning? Are you one who is pure and clean, one who reflects the glory of God?