

“For The Lord!”
1 Corinthians 6:12-14

Introduction:

1. This Morning - Head Back With Me To 1 Corinthians 6!
 - It Has Been A Little While Since We've Been In Our Study Of 1 Corinthians!
 - Having Been On Vacation & Then Remembering Our Heavenly Father On Father's Day Last Sunday!
 - The Last Time We Were In Chapter 6:
 - We Were Reminded Of What The Gospel Had Done For The Christians In The City Of Corinth!
 - After Listing Several Kinds & Categories Of Sin - Paul Writes In 6:11 - "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 You Remember What The Gospel Has Done For You?
 - If You Are A True Christian:
 - Never Forget What Jesus Has Done For You!
 - And Don't Turn Back To What You Were & What You Did Before You Came To Jesus Christ!
 - Because:
 - You Have Been Washed!
 - This Means That You Have Been Cleansed & Forgiven Of All Of Your Sin!
 - You Have Been Sanctified!
 - This Means That You Have Been Set Apart Unto God & For His Use!
 - You Have Been Justified!
 - This Means That You Are Seen As Righteous Through What Jesus Has Done For You!
2. You Would Think - After Seeing These Incredible Things That God Has Done For Sinners - Like You & Like Me:
 - That We Would Love & Want To Live For The Lord With All Of Our Hearts!
 - But - It Seems Like What We See In Our Own Life & In Our Own Church Is What Happened In Corinth As Well!
 - They Left Their "First Love!"
 - And Went On To Live Their Lives Like They Did Before! Maybe With A Few Minor Changes & A Few Differences - But Not In A Way That Reflected What Had Been Done To Them & Given To Them Through Jesus!
 - **IE:** In 2007, The Barna Group Set Out To Study If "Non-Christians & Christians Live Different Lifestyles?" - After Looking At 20 Different Lifestyle Elements - They Concluded That: "When Measured For Other Moral Behaviors, Born-Again Believers Are Not Much Different From Non-Born-Again Adults!"
 - "Not Much Different!"
 - And The Director Of The Study, David Kinnaman, Reported That - "The Respect, Patience, Self-Control And Kindness Of Born-Again Christians Should Astound People, But The Lifestyles And Relationships Of Born-Again Believers Are Not Much Different Than Others!"
 - Again - "Not Much Different!"
3. Why?
 - Why Is There No Difference?
 - Why Would There Be No Difference?
 - After All - Look At What Jesus Has Done For You!
 - You've Been Washed / Sanctified / Justified!
 - So Paul Brings Another Important Reminder:
 - To Help Every Christian Live The Kind Of Different Life That The Gospel Teaches!
 - Remember This: If You Are Washed / Sanctified / Justified:
 - Then – ***You Belong To The Lord!***
 - Everything You Are / Everything You Have Belongs To The Lord!
 - 6:12-14 - "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. / 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. / And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by His own power!”

- You Are Not Saved To Live For Your Self!
- No - You Are Saved To Live For Your Savior!
- And You Belong To The Lord!
- See In These 3 Verses That:
 - Your Freedom Belongs To The Lord!
 - Your Flesh Belongs To The Lord!
 - Your Future Belongs To The Lord!
 - So - Stop Living For Yourself & Start Living For Your Savior!

1. Your Freedom Belongs To The Lord!

- 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!”
 - One Issue That Keeps A Christian From Living For The Lord – Is A Misunderstanding Of Christian Liberty
 - And So - To Keep Us From The Same Problem, He Gives Us Some Principles Of Christian Liberty!
- The Reality Of Our Liberty!
 - There Is A Very Real Freedom & Liberty When You Are Saved By Jesus Christ!
 - Galatians 5:1 - “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage!”
 - There Is Freedom From Sin! (Romans 6:18; 8:2)
 - There Is Freedom From The Law Of Sin & Death!
 - There Is Freedom From All Men! (1 Cor. 9:19)
 - That’s Why Paul States Very Clearly:
 - “All Things Are Lawful Unto Me!” Two Times!
 - By “Lawful” - He Means Something That Is Allowed Or Permitted!
 - Of Course - He Is Not Including Those Things That Are Clearly Sinful & Against God’s Law! Sins He Just Described In 6:9-10!
 - But All “Other” Things - That Are Not Expressly Forbidden By God In His Word - Christians Are Free To Be Involved In!
 - But - The Christians In Corinth & In America - Have Taken This To Mean That We Are Free To Indulge In Anything That We Want!
 - **IE:** Whether Its Drinking Or Smoking Or Music Or Gambling Or Other Seemingly Harmless Issues Not Specifically Forbidden In The Bible!
 - So They Do Whatever They Want! And There Is No Difference!
 - We Have A Wrong Understanding About Our Liberty In Christ!
 - See - There Are Limits To Our Liberty!
 - **IE:** Just Like In Our American Legal System - “Just Because It’s Legal, Doesn’t Make It Right!” - You Can Still Get In Trouble If You Do Something Unethical Or Embarrassing To Your Company - Even Though It Is Legal!
 - Your Liberty Belongs To The Lord!
- The Restriction To Our Liberty!
 - Even If Everything Was “Lawful” & “Permissible” For Us To Involve Ourselves In & Even Indulge In As Christians:
 - Paul Says - You Need To Govern / Limit Your Liberty With This Principle!
 - “But All Things Are Not Expedient!”
 - It May Be Permitted, But It Is Not Profitable!
 - Or Helpful! “To Carry With!” For Your Own Walk With God & Others!
 - So - You Need To Limit Your Own Liberty By Asking:
 - Not Just If What You Are Doing Is Harmful!
 - Not Just If What You Are Doing Is Harmless!
 - But Is What You Are Doing Actually Helpful?
 - For God’s Glory? For Other’s Growth? For Your Own Testimony?

- If It Is Not Helpful - It Should Not Be Done!
- Galatians 5:13 - "Only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another!"
- Your Liberty Belongs To The Lord!
- The Resolution Of Our Liberty!
 - Another Principle To Help Us Use Our Liberty Right:
 - "But I Will Not Be Brought Under The Power Of Any!"
 - Or - To Be "Mastered" By Someone / Something!
 - Something May Not Expressly Wrong, And May Even Be Helpful – But:
 - Does It / Will It Control Me?
 - Does It / Will It Consume Me?
 - If So - Then Our Freedom Has Turned Into Bondage! And Something Else Has Become Your Master, Rather Than The Lord!
 - Have You Been Mastered By Something Other Than Jesus?
 - What Are You Consumed With / Controlled By?
 - **IE:** Some Are Consumed With Politics!
 - All They Think About / Deal With!
 - **IE:** Some Are Controlled By Seemingly Innocent Things!
 - Could Even Coffee Be Included Here?
 - You May Be Free To Involve Yourself In These Things!
 - But Remember - You Don't Belong To Them!
 - You Belong To The Lord!
 - Don't Let Anything Else Control You Or Consume You!
 - Even Something That Is Harmless In Itself!
- Remember - You Belong To The Lord!
- Your Freedom Belongs To The Lord!
- If You Remember This - There Will Be A Difference!

2. ***Your Flesh Belongs To The Lord!***

- 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!"
- Another Issue That Keeps A Christian From Living For The Lord – Is A Misunderstanding Of Our Human Body & Appetites!
- We Need To Keep The Right Perspective!
 - About Our God-Given Bodies & Appetites!
- 1 Timothy 6:17 Tells Us That God Gives Us "Richly All Things To Enjoy!"
 - And So Some Christians Interpret This To Mean - "If It Feels Good - Then I Can Do It!" - Any Time / Any Place!
 - And There Is No Difference!
- Need To Remember:
 - Even Your Flesh Belongs To The Lord!
 - Your Body! Your Appetites!
 - You Can't Get Any More Harmless Than Food! After All, A Man's Got To Eat!
 - Don't Let Them Control You – Instead, You Are Now Free To Glorify God In Them!
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!" – Satisfy Them - Right Time / Right Place!
- Remember:
- The Physical Nature Of Your Body! (And Appetites)
 - "Meats For The Belly, And The Belly For Meats!"
 - God Is The Great Creator & Designer Of Our Bodies!
 - He Made Food ("Meats") For Our Bodies!
 - For Filling Us / For Fueling Us!
 - He Made Our Bellies For Food!
 - For Holding It / For Using It!
 - Food Is, In Itself, A Completely Physical Issue!

- And It Is Necessary!
- But How You Deal With Your Food (And Other Appetites) Brings It To A Spiritual Level!
- Philippians 3:19 - Talks Of Those - "Whose God Is Their Belly!"
- Romans 14 & 1 Corinthians 8 Tell Us That When We Eat Or Drink, We Are To Think About The Lord & About Others - Not Ourselves & Our Own Liberty!
- Keep The Right Perspective! Your Body / Your Flesh / Even Your Food Belongs To The Lord!
- The Temporary Nature Of Your Body! (And Appetites)
 - "But God Shall Destroy Both It And Them!"
 - Christians Are Not To Be Controlled By / Consumed With:
 - Their Food / Their Bodies / Their Appetites!
 - Because They Will Not Last Forever!
 - They Are Temporary! They Will Be Destroyed By God At Death!
 - No More Physical Appetites / Needs / Urges!
 - For Food - No More Hunger!
 - For Drink - No More Thirst!
 - For Sleep - No More Tiring!
 - Or Any Other Physical Desire!
 - God Himself Will Be Our Satisfaction!
 - Need The Right Perspective! Your Body / Your Flesh / Your Physical Appetites Belong To The Lord!
 - And Are Only Temporary!
 - Don't Become A Servant To Your Bodily Appetites, Be A Servant To The Lord!
- The Spiritual Nature Of Your Body! (And Appetites)
 - "Now The Body Is Not For Fornication, But For The Lord, And The Lord For The Body!"
 - Our Bodies & Our Appetites:
 - Even Our Sensual Desire!
 - Is Not Just For Physical / Natural Things & Pleasures!
 - That's How Animals Live!
 - Even Some Unbelievers Seem To Understand This!
 - **IE:** Ricardo Montalban - An Actor Whose Career Spanned 60 Years - "A great lover is someone who can satisfy one woman her entire lifetime and be satisfied with one woman his entire lifetime. It is not someone who goes from woman to woman; any dog can do that!" (Fantasy Island)
 - God Designed Our Bodies With So Much More Purpose Involved!
 - Your Body Is Not Just To Gratify Physical Desires!
 - Your Body Is Not Just To Experience Physical Pleasure!
 - Your Body Is For The Lord!
 - To Serve The Lord! Honor! Fellowship With!
 - And The Lord Is For Your Body!
 - To Dwell In! To Empower! Fill & Use!
- Remember - You Belong To The Lord!
 - Your Flesh Belongs To The Lord!
 - Your Eyes / Ears / Mouth / Feet / Hands / Everything / Every Part Is "For The Lord" & His Use!
 - If You Remember This - There Will Be A Difference!

3. ***Your Future Belongs To The Lord!***

- 6:14 - "And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power!"
- Another Issue That Keeps A Christian From Living For The Lord – Is A Misunderstanding Of Our Future / Our Destiny!
 - Our Life Is Not In Our Own Hands!
 - Our Life Is In The Lord's Hands!
 - We Belong To Him!
- Because Of The Person Of The Lord!

- “And God Hath . . . Raised Up The Lord!”
- We Don’t Serve & Belong To A Dead Savior!
 - No - We Serve & Belong To A Living Savior!
 - A Risen Savior!
- We Belong To The Lord:
 - Because The Lord Died For Us!
 - And He Redeemed Us & Bought Us With His Own Blood!
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19 - “Ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold – But with the precious blood of Christ!”
- We Belong To The Lord:
 - Because The Lord Lives For Us!
 - Romans 6:4 - “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life!”
- Your Future Belongs To The Lord!
- Because Of The Purpose Of The Lord!
 - “And God Hath Both Raised Up The Lord, And Will Raise Up Us!”
 - This Is Our Future Hope!
 - This Life & This Body & These Appetites:
 - Are Temporary!
 - But That Life & That Body & Those Desires:
 - Will Be “Powerful, Glorious, Incorruptible, And Spiritual” (Gill) – Not To Mention Permanent!
 - So Don’t Be Controlled By Or Consumed With The Appetites Of This Life!
 - God Has A Greater Plan & A Higher Purpose For You!
 - Because Your Future Belongs To The Lord!
- Because Of The Power Of The Lord!
 - “By His Own Power!”
 - Nothing Needs To Control Us Or Consume Us!
 - Because The Eternal & Infinite Power Of God Is Upon Us! Not Just In The Future / But For The Present As Well!
 - 1 John 4:4 - “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world!”
- Remember - You Belong To The Lord!
 - Your Future Belongs To The Lord!
 - And If You Remember This - There Will Be A Difference!

Conclusion:

1. But What If There Still Is No Difference?
 - Another Important Question - Do You Belong To The Lord?
 - Have You Been Saved? Are You Born Again?
 - You Will Continue To Live For Yourself:
 - And Be A Slave To Your Own Body & Your Own Sin!
 - Until You Come To Jesus!
 - And Believe That He Died For You & Redeemed You From Your Sin!
 - Stop Trusting In Your Own Flesh!
 - And Turn To & Start Trusting In Jesus!
 - He Is The Only One Who Can:
 - Wash You / Sanctify You / Justify You!
2. He Is The Only One Who Can:
 - Make An Eternal Difference In Your Life!
 - And Bring About A Difference In Your Life!
 - Believe In & Ask Jesus To Be Your Own Lord & Savior!
 - Let Him Live His Life In & Through You!
 - And Then You Will Belong To Jesus!

- Because Jesus Belongs To You!
- 3. If You Are A Christian – Remember This Truth:
 - You Belong To The Lord!
 - Your Freedom / Flesh / Future!
 - And When You Do:
 - There Will Be A Difference!

***Grace Baptist Church
Stephen Elmer, Pastor
4245 North 200 West
Greenfield, Indiana 46140
317-326-2362
www.sermonaudio.com/wordofgrace
www.growatgrace.org
pastor-elmer@hotmail.com***