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## I Corinthians 6:12-20

12. “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything.

13. Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body.

14. Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

15. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be!

16. Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body with her? For He says, “THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH.”

17. But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18. Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.

19. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

20. For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

In this passage Paul speaks to Christians concerning the weightiness of the sin of sexual immorality for the Christian. In verse 18 the scripture says, “Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.” Note that sexual sins are significantly different from all other sins. All other sins are “outside the body” but sexual sins are “against the body.”

The reason that the Scriptures give for sexual immorality being a different class of sin, and by implication here--worse than other sins,--is that in sexual relations two become one flesh. Paul asks the following rhetorical questions in verse 15 to drive God’s point home: “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute?”

For the Christian this truth has profound consequences, since our bodies are indwelt by the Spirit of God Himself. As verses 19 and 20 state unequivocally to all Christians: “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

So while the world may regard their sexuality as a

spectator sport, or in the same way as dogs and cats procreate, that is to be expected of worldly people who see themselves as nothing more than a higher form of animal. The world will always act like the world.

Now in personal Bible studies, especially with young people, I have noted that many people are ignorant as to what constitutes sexual immorality. I Corinthians 6:9 lists fornication, adultery, and homosexuality as sexual sins. Fornication is defined as an unmarried man having sexual relations with an unmarried woman. Adultery occurs when a married person has sexual relations with someone other than their marriage partner. And homosexuality is sexual relations between two people of the same sexual gender.

But for the Christian, our union with another person is the reflection of the marriage and covenant between Christ and His Church. We Christian husbands are to be as faithful and completely devoted to our wives as Christ is to His Church. (And Christian wives are to do likewise.) For this reason the Word of God says in no uncertain terms: “Flee immorality.”