

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
July 23, 2022
1Corinthians chapter 6 “Bringing Glory to God”

I. Introduction

Read: Col 1:9-10

† Do you “want” to please the Lord?

† Last week we spoke of a person in sexual sin and also of people suing each other – neither of these things please God.

† This week, Paul is going to continue speaking to us of what does not and what does please God.

II. You’re a NEW Creation

A. Unrighteousness

1Co 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, 10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

† Paul now transitions from the selfishness of suing someone to the broader idea of unrighteousness and in general...and he gives us some examples of what the unrighteous world looks like! His list is very black and white and inclusive towards all of us!

† He includes the fornicators, idolaters and adulterers along with homosexuality. He also lists thieves, drunks and the covetous.

† Paul uses a similar list in 1Tim 1:8-11 to show us the use of the law...

† Our answer to these issues is that the Word of God HAS TO BE THE FINAL AUTHORITY for our lives!

† In dealing with Unrighteousness...Paul writes in: **2Ti 3:1-5** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

† Again, these are areas of our lives that will not please the Lord...

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B. Righteousness

BUT...then Paul writes (1Co 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.

† **And then he says, “Uhhh...don’t you remember that you were like the world once, but now you’re saved, you’re different, your spirit has been made alive in Christ and you are the temple of God and have the Holy Spirit living in you!”**

† **And so, we are to: Col 3:2, 5** Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

† **And we should: (Col 3:12)** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

III. Bought with a Price

A. What Controls You?

1Co 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.

† **Paul now says, “all things are lawful for me” - but they aren’t necessarily expedient (good for me as in they don’t contribute to my Christian growth).**

† **We must take care that we are not given over to the controlling influence of things not related to God.**

† **How do habits / hobbies / selfish desires affect our choices?**

† **A good question regarding this is: “If Jesus asked you to quit, would you or could you?”**

B. Your Body is for the Lord

(Temporal) 1Co 6:13-18 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. 14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. 15 **Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?** shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
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† Similarly, in Genesis – God’s covenant marriage is consummated and characterized through physical intimacy – otherwise you’re just like room-mates.

† Thus, intimacy with someone outside of marriage is idolatry.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. **(Just as Joseph fled from the advances of Potiphar’s wife)** Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

† **If we are part of the body of Christ, and we become “one” with someone who we are not married to, then we create distance between our body and Christ’s – we sin against our own body because it is not acting as part of the body of Christ, rather independently in rebellion.**

C. You are Not Your Own

1Co 6:19-20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

† **We are not our own: Isa 43:7** Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

IV. The Gift of Celibacy

A. The Question

The essence of a question put before Paul in an earlier letter is: “Is it more Spiritual to not marry than to marry – is it more Spiritual to not have sex than to have it?” Chapter 7 answers the question:

1Co 7:1, 7-9 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that. 8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I. 9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

† **Remember what we just read in 1Co 6:20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
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- † The idea of “Not touching a woman” is not speaking of shaking hands or hugging, rather it is specifically speaking to sexual intercourse (OT refs. Gen 20:6, Pro 6:29).
- † But here, Paul is saying it’s OK to be single – this was a big deal in Jewish culture as the Pharisees taught that you were in disobedience to God if you didn’t marry because God’s speaking in Gen about marriage and being fruitful and multiplying.
- † Down in verses 33 & 34 of 1Cor 7 Paul makes the point that the single person is more easily able to minister to and for the Lord...whereas the married person needs to be focused on pleasing their spouse.
- † Looking at v.7 & 8 – Paul says he wished, not that it is commanded, that everyone would be single (he felt the immanency of Christ’s coming) but makes a bold statement: **whether celibate or married...it is a gift from God.**
- † Then in verse 9...we find the deciding factor: if you don’t have the gift of celibacy, don’t try to “fake it till you make it” – it’s better to marry than to burn in the lust of your flesh.

V. The Marriage Bed

A. Avoiding Sin

1Co 7:2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

- † Nevertheless...if you don’t have the gift of celibacy – and to avoid fornication (sex outside of a covenant marriage between a genetically identifiable male and female) then get married.
- † Those who study such things say that the sexual drive is the 4th greatest need in our bodies coming after the need for air, water & food.
- † God recognizes the greatness of the need and thus we find ourselves learning what He has to say on the subject.
- † Damien Kyle (a Calvary Pastor in Modesto, CA.) says of this verse...
 - “Because the sexual relationship can only be expressed within the context of marriage without being sinful, then getting married is the single greatest thing a person can do to maintain a sexually pure life”.

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
July 23, 2022
1Corinthians chapter 6 “Bringing Glory to God”

† As we look at this...it is good to remember that Paul is not dealing with the wholeness of marriage, rather the narrowness of this dimension of marriage.

B. God Given Responsibilities

1Co 7:3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise, also the wife unto the husband.

† “Benevolence” here is speaking of physical intimacy...

○ The ESV calls it “conjugal rights”, and the NLT calls it, “sexual needs”.

† Note that God tells both the husband and the wife to render this...thus, we are shown a God given responsibility that spouses are to desire to satisfy their spouse sexually.

† The “RENDER” in v. 3 is in the present imperative form in the Greek and means that it is to be active, ongoing and regular.

† And the word “DUE” here, is a “strong” word that means that each partner has a right to a sexual relationship as a part of marriage.

† “DUE” is therefore significant in that, according to Damien Kyle (who has done the best job of teaching this of any commentator I found), “This shouldn’t be something that one spouse has to coerce out of the other spouse or plead for or ask for. Rather, we are to be servants to our spouses in this area of our lives.

† **Pro 5:15-19** Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. 16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets. 17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers with thee. 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

† This passage in Proverbs gives us the idea that partners should be sexually satisfied and should be ravished (literally in the Hebrew: satiated) with their spouse’s love.

C. Our Rights

1Co 7:4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise, also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

† We find in this verse that when a person gets married, they relinquish the exclusive right to their own body and agree to give their spouse the right to their body for sexual enjoyment.

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- † **Why? Sex is never to be used as a weapon in marriage. It is not for control, nor a reward & punishment mechanism in a marriage or as a means of manipulation.**
- † **And, we must remember that we are NOT our own, we were bought with the price of Christ’s body and thus, unlike the world, we are to think and act differently.**
- † **This is one way in which we please God...in pleasing our spouse.**
- † **Remember what Paul says of marriage, “Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church”.**

D. One Exception

1Co 7:5-6 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency. 6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

- † **We find Paul here saying that spouses can’t deprive each other of this basic issue in marriage...because if they do, they may open up the door for temptation from Satan.**
- † **Why? Because if marriage is the only place that this is OK, it puts the denied person in a bad place (like between a rock and a hard place). The attitude that should be taken is that of servant to the spouse.**
 - **In fact, God said of marriage: “A man shall leave his father & mother and he shall cleave to his wife, and the two shall become ONE FLESH” where “ONE FLESH” is speaking of the physical / sexual intimacy found in marriage.**
- † **The ONLY EXCEPTION to this rule is if there is a mutual agreement to part for the express purpose of praying and fasting... and there are 4 rules to this exception:**
 - 1. There must be mutual consent.**
 - 2. It is only for a limited time.**
 - 3. It must be for an express purpose.**
 - 4. You must come together again.**

VI. Conclusion

Our heart’s desire should be to please and glorify God in all we do...seek first the Kingdom of God!