

# 1 Corinthians Part One

## Lesson #21, Chapter 6:12-20

Please read through Chapters 5 and 6 before beginning your lesson. May the Lord bless you with insight into His Word!

1. The key to understanding this passage begins in Chapter 5 verse 1. Explain Paul's flow of thought from 1 Cor. 5:1 to 6:11.
2. Paul writes to correct the Corinthians' wrong thinking about how Christians can live and how we should treat one another. What were some specific areas in their thinking that needed correction?
3. Quickly read through 1 Cor. 6:12-20. What's the connection between the Corinthians being willing to put up with someone else's sin from 5:1-2 and the contents of 1 Cor. 6:12-20?
4. The Corinthians were big on using their liberties, yet they didn't know how to use those liberties wisely. How does Paul bring balance to their thinking in verse 12?
5. When Paul says, "*all* things are lawful" does he really mean *all*? See verses 13 and 18; Rom. 6:12-13; 7:4-6 to help form your answer.
6. What are some possible dangers of using our liberties, as Paul alludes to in verse 12?

7. To what degree can we enjoy our liberties or freedoms given to us through Christ? See Rom. 14:15-23; 1 Cor. 10:24, 31-33; Eph. 5:3-4; Col. 3:18.
  
8. Based on your answers above, now explain how a freedom might not be *profitable* and could even *master* us.
  
9. What are some freedoms you enjoy? What are some dangers inherent in those freedoms that you need to watch over?
  
10. In verse 13 Paul makes a connection between the stomach and the body. What distinctions does he make between them in verse 13?
  
11. Explain how the Corinthian's view of food and the stomach justified engaging in immorality. What's wrong with that thinking?

“Freedom in eating food does not equal freedom for immorality.”<sup>1</sup>

12. What do you learn about our bodies from verses 13-16? And how should those truths keep us from engaging in immorality?

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<sup>1</sup> Robert B. Hughes and J. Carl Laney, *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary*, The Tyndale Reference Library (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers, 2001), pg. 551.

13. Why would *joining* yourself to someone in immorality be so offensive to the Lord according to verse 17?
  
14. What is the command for every believer to know, understand, and apply (verse 18)? Why (verse 18)?
  
15. What does it mean to commit *immorality* [Strong's #4202]? See also Gal. 5:19; Eph. 5:3; 1 Thess. 4:3.
  
16. When we commit immorality how is it possible to sin against our own bodies? See verses 16-17.
  
17. What do we learn about our bodies in verse 19?
  
18. Explain how an understanding that our physical bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit should keep us from engaging in immorality, or any sin for that matter. See also 1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.
  
19. Another reason not to engage in immorality is that our bodies are not our own. Why don't our bodies belong to us to do with as we please? See verse 20.

20. What price was paid for your body—for you? See Gal. 3:13; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Rev. 5:9.
  
21. When we understand this what should our response be according to verse 20?
  
22. According to verses 12-20 how can you give God glory in your body?
  
23. Consider what things have “mastered” you this week or have been “unprofitable” for you (from verse 12). How does understanding you are to glorify God in your body, help you to live more profitably for the Lord?
  
24. Once Jesus Christ redeems us, we no longer get to decide how we want to use our bodies. In essence, we become stewards of our bodies because they are no longer our own; they belong to Him. Remember the little children's song: *O be careful little eyes (ears, hands, feet, mouth) what you see (hear, do, go, say), There's a Father up above and He's looking down in love, so, be careful little eyes what you see?* Would your Master commend you in how you watch over His body? What are some areas you feel the Master wouldn't be pleased in what you see, hear, and do? Consider what changes you need to make and list them here.
  
25. Our time here on earth is the only time when we can give God glory in our bodies by turning away from sin, for when we are in heaven with Him we will have perfect bodies and will no longer feel the pull of sin. How can understanding that truth help you say “no” to the desires of your flesh?

26. What do you think motivates you the most toward holiness and purity in your life?

With the same view he [Paul] declared a little ago, that not only our souls but our bodies also are temples of the Holy Spirit, that we may not think that we discharge our duty to Him aright, if we do not devote ourselves wholly and entirely to His service, that He may by His word regulate even the outward actions of our life.<sup>2</sup>

~ John Calvin

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<sup>2</sup> John Calvin, *Calvin's Commentaries: I Corinthians*, electronic ed., Logos Library System; Calvin's Commentaries (Albany, OR: Ages Software, 1998), 1 Co 6:20