

## 1Corinthians – Week 25

### I. Review: 1Cor 6:12-17 – FREEDOM OR SLAVERY?

- A. We are to use our freedom to serve God. We are to use our bodies to serve God.
  - i. The body is meant for the Lord
- B. Be careful not to be enslaved all over again by your former way of living. Do not be deceived!
  - i. Don't be tempted by the temporary passions in you
  - ii. Focus on the eternal
- C. Spiritual Power is Real and Lasting as opposed to worldly power
  - i. Don't look to join yourself to what will degrade you and reduce you
  - ii. You are joined to the Lord!

### II. Continuation – *Free to Serve in love... Don't be Enslaved by Your Passions... Marriage...*

- A. 1Corinthians 6:18-20 (ESV) *Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (19) Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, (20) for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
  - i. Flee Sexual Immorality
    - 1. Consider Joseph and David
      - a. Both men had a heart for the Lord and greatly feared Him
      - b. One ran away immediately from the opportunity to be sexually immoral
      - c. He didn't even want to give a hint of sexual immorality - Genesis 39:10  
ESV *And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.*
      - d. David did not flee, but pursued the immorality. Some would say, he got caught up in it, or fell victim to it.
      - e. Though David's faith was strong (a man after God's own heart) the allure of sexual immorality trapped him.
    - 2. Don't think you are strong enough to stand up against sexual immorality
      - a. 1 Corinthians 10:12 ESV *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.*
      - b. The context of this verse has to do with idolatry and sexual immorality, both of which we must flee (cf. 1Cor. 10:14)
      - c. Avoid being alone with someone you are attracted to.
      - d. Avoid places that arouse your sexual appetites; like the beach, adult stores; red light districts, etc.
      - e. Get rid of that which may tempt you to fall into sexual immorality: movies, books, magazines, internet, etc.
    - 3. Sexual Sins Hurt the Body
      - a. Not just Your Body
      - b. It is the Spirit's Temple
        - i. It dishonors God
        - ii. It shames holiness
      - c. Your Body is Meant to be Used to serve in love, as tools for righteousness (Rom 6:13)
  - ii. You are not your own
    - 1. Now your body belongs to Jesus
    - 2. You crucified your old self and buried that old self when you were baptized (Rom 6:3-6)
      - a. The body of sin was brought to nothing

- b. Now you are not enslaved to sin
    - c. You are free to serve!
  - iii. Glorify God in Your Body
    1. Submit to the regeneration of the Spirit (Titus 3:5)
    2. Let your mind be renewed (Rom 12:2)
    3. Let your body do Good
    4. The Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force.
    5. He is referred to as a *who*, not as a *what*.
- B. 1Corinthians 7:1-2 (ESV) *Now concerning the matters about which you wrote: "It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman." (2) But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.*
  - i. Midpoint Review – Paul now turns to address the questions the Corinthians had asked of him. Apparently they had asked him about:
    1. Sexual relations - chapter 7:1-9
    2. Marriage, divorce, remarriage - chapter 7:10-40
    3. Freedoms (rights), status - chapter 7:17-24
    4. Food sacrificed to idols - chapter 8-10:14-33
    5. Head covering for the praying/prophesying woman - chapter 11:2-16
    6. The Lord's Supper - chapter 11:17-34
    7. Proper use of spiritual gifts - chapter 12-13
    8. Order and purpose of the assembly - chapter 14
    9. The resurrection of the dead - chapter 15
    10. The collection for God's people - chapter 16
  - ii. Some of these were questions they asked him and some were issues Paul wanted to address since he had heard about them, like the divisiveness he addressed at the beginning of the letter, which he uses to also address how it affected their Lord's Supper Memorial (1Co 1:10-12; 1Co 11:18-22).
  - iii. He set up some principles in the first half of the letter that will resurface in the answers to the questions the church had for him in these matters
    1. Follow Jesus or follow men - 1:10-16
    2. The Wisdom of God vs. the wisdom of man 1:17-31
    3. The Cross: The Wisdom and Power of God - Chapter 2
    4. The Mature Man (plants, waters, builds, knows he is God's temple) - Chapter 3
    5. The Mature Perspective (How we regard ourselves and others) - Chapter 4
    6. Maintaining Purity - Flee Sexual Immorality - Chapter 5
    7. Judging Rightly and Glorifying God with your body - Chapter 6
  - iv. Sexual Relations (7:1-2) – The Spirit indicates that it would be good for a man to remain a virgin, that is, without tasting sexual relations. There is a caveat though: sexual immorality and the impurity this world thrives on may necessitate each man to have his own wife and each woman her own husband.
    1. Particularly because Corinth had such moral decadence, led by the prostitute priestesses of the temple of Aphrodite, it was good for the members of the church to be married. It could have been to help them maintain purity and also to set a good example in such a decadent city.
    2. The Spirit does not advocate celibacy as better than marriage. Some religious institutions have taken this position and have elevated celibacy to be more spiritual than marriage, which is not what the Scriptures teach in any way.
    3. It is, however, in the best interest of certain people in certain circumstances, as Paul explained in verses 26-28, to remain single.

**C. 1Corinthians 7:3-5 (ESV)** *The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. (4) For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. (5) Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.*

**i. Marriage made Mockery – How?**

- 1. A spouse should not hold their conjugal right hostage or use it as leverage to manipulate. They should give themselves freely to one another without demanding anything back.**
  - a. Remember you are free to serve – serve one another in love.**
  - b. Husbands, compel your wives to give their own bodies to you freely as you feel compelled to give yourself to Christ because of His love for you (2 Co 5:14-15).**
- 2. Marriages are not to be held by appearance only, as some who may try to hide sexual deviances behind a marriage or who nowadays make a mockery of marriage by using it for financial gain or immigration status.**

**ii. Marriage is Ownership**

- 1. Just like our bodies belong to Christ when we are one with Him, the spouse's bodies belong to each other. Marriage is the analogue of Jesus and the church (Eph 5:25-33).**
- 2. Spouses should encourage each other to take care of themselves physically, since they do not have authority only over their own bodies, but of each other's as well.**
  - a. They ought to serve each other in love.**
  - b. If a husband loves himself, he will show love for his own wife as he does for himself, his own body, just as Jesus loves takes care of the church (Eph 5:28-30).**

**iii. Reasons for withholding Conjugal Duties?**

- 1. Failing to perform your marital duty may cause your eyes and your mind to wander. If you are married you ought to regularly engage in sexual intercourse to keep yourself emotionally, mentally and spiritually focused.**
- 2. Many problematic issues in marriage stem from lack of devotion in this area. Even many contemporary jokes highlight the seriousness of this. You can give Satan a foothold in your marriage and life by depriving one another of your conjugal duty.**
- 3. Again, a spouse should not hold their conjugal rights hostage or use it as leverage to manipulate. They should give themselves freely to one another without demanding anything back.**
- 4. If spouses agree to fast from their conjugal right they ought to do so for spiritual reasons and for a limited time only.**
  - a. Some religious elitist groups set rules for spouses to only perform their conjugal duty a certain number of times, or to fast from it for long periods of time in order to "purify" themselves (asceticism). Any such attempts to "purify" actually cause the opposite - lack of self-control, as the Spirit teaches in this verse and in Col 2:23.**
  - b. These groups also claim that conjugal rights ought to only be performed for procreation purposes only, stripped of any kind of "sinful enjoyment". They purport that God created sex only for procreation and**

**therefore any sexual acts done within a married relationship should only be for procreation. They condemn the use of the condom or anything else that may encourage sexual pleasure. This, of course, flies in the face of what the Spirit says here and the sexual marital bliss that Song of Solomon depicts.**