

Holy Living in Union with Christ 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Read the passage prayerfully and pray that God will show you more of his great salvation.

1. Can Christians do with their bodies everything the world does with their bodies? Why not?
2. What are the two saying the Corinthians quoted to one another in vv.12-13? Why are they wrong?
3. In v.13 Paul mentions both “food” and “sexuality”, how are these things connected? What were some of the false perceptions 1st century people had about them? See v. 12, Colossians 2:21-23 and 1 Timothy 4:1-3.
4. What is the right way to think about life in the body according to the last passage (1 Tim 4:3)? Can you see this reasoning in v.13 of our passage? Also take a look at how he commands the use of the body in 1 Corinthians 10:31. Judging from these passages, why did God give us bodies?
5. Why is Paul theology of the resurrection in v.14 significant in light of Paul’s warning that we should not engage in sexual immorality? See how Jesus develops this in John 5:28-29.
6. What does Paul mean by saying that our bodies are “members of Christ” (v.15)? Why should this motivate us to abstain from sexual immorality with prostitutes?
7. How would you explain the role your union with Christ plays in sexual ethics, and moral choices in general? You can also look up 1 Cor 1:2, 30; 6:17. What does it mean that we are “one spirit” with Christ?
8. In v.16 Paul uses an argument against sexual immorality that comes from Genesis. What is it, and why should this passage revolutionise the way we think about marriage and sexual immorality? It might also help to consider Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:32.
9. According to v.18, what is the action we should take against sexual immorality? What does the word mean?
10. Why does Paul say that sins of sexual immorality are different to other sins in v.18? Paul makes the same argument about homosexuality in Romans 1:27b.
11. What are the implication of Paul calling our bodies the temple of the Holy Spirit in v. 19? Why was it important that the high priest who enters the holy of Holies in the temple be both ritually and morally pure?
12. What was the “price” by which we were bought (v.20, cf. 1 Peter 1:18-19)? What does it mean that we were “bought” (see also Romans 6:15-18)? What is the practical application Paul gives us now that we have been “bought with a price” in v.20? How do we do it in light of the larger passage?

Pray that God would in Christ grant you grace to put these words into practice daily.