

WHAT PAUL MIGHT WRITE TO THE CHURCH AT OKC?

Paul's letter to the church of Jesus Christ at Oklahoma City The Admonitions-1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Paul wrote I Corinthians to disciples of Jesus in the Corinthian church but they were not acting like disciples of Jesus.

- One brother was committing fornication with his step mother.
- One brother was cheating another brother and that brother was suing him.
- Some brothers were committing fornication with prostitutes.

In I Cor. 6:9-20, Paul mentioned sexual immorality or some form of it seven times. It is the longest discourse and the most thorough treatment of this subject in the New Testament.

He told them to flee sexual immorality in verse 18. Fleeing sexual immorality is the theme of this truth talk. To flee means to run away; to escape; to shun. In I Cor. 6:9-20, Paul built his case and told them why to flee.

Last week we saw Paul began his truth talk with this statement,

1 Cor. 6:9-10

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul did not want them to be deceived by the false idea that someone in the church engaging in sexual immorality was eternally secure.

He then reasons with them that even though some of them could be characterized and defined by sin at one time, Jesus cleared their record and redefined who they were.

1 Cor. 6:11

And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

The first reason Paul said to flee was...

1. Sexual immorality subjects you to your old identity.

It is acting like who you were rather than acting like who you are. This creates an identity crisis.

As far as I am concerned, Paul could have ended his discourse on fleeing sexual immorality after this statement.

But in verses 12-16, he continued to reason with them.

2. Sexual immorality subjects you to the power of the law of sin.

12 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

David said...

Psalms 51:5

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
And in sin my mother conceived me.

NKJV

All men are born into sin. This means when we are born, we are slaves to the law of sin.

Romans 7:21-24

21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. 22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

NKJV

The law of sin within all men has incredible power. It makes men slaves. We are all too familiar to addiction and what it does to people. The law of sin makes the most powerful man it's slave.

The gospel of Jesus Christ emancipates slaves from the power of the law of sin.

Romans 8:1-2

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

NKJV

The gospel of Jesus also creates a new covenant between God and man. In that agreement, righteousness is a gift that cannot be earned.

Romans 3:21-22

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.

NKJV

Once this gift is received by faith in Jesus Christ, you can sin without any fear of eternal judgment. All things are lawful. But all things are not profitable.

If you choose to sin, freedom from divine judgment will not prevent you from returning to your former life as a slave to the law of sin.

Sexual immorality subjects you to the power of the law of sin.

3. Sexual immorality subjects you to perverted appetites.

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

God created you with an appetite for food. He did not create you with an appetite for perversion. Sexual immorality subjects you to an appetite for perversion. None of these appetites will be in your resurrected body. So, make your body your slave and live like you are the Lord's.

4. Sexual immorality subjects the body of Jesus to an unholy union.

15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!

If you receive Jesus, you are a member of the spiritual body of Jesus Christ on the earth. The church is called the body of Jesus and the body has many members. Whatever you do that leaves a serious impression on you as a member affects other members of the body.

This idea is hard to accept if your experience with membership in the body of Jesus is limited to a once a week encounter with a church in a worship service. But if you are practicing church the way it was practiced in the New Testament, you get it. In the New Testament church when you attended a meeting you were an active participant. After the meeting, you were an active participant. You were a family. It was ludicrous to think that you could be spending time with a local temple prostitute and it would not affect how you would relate to God or your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your immorality also affects the reputation of the church and the reputation of Jesus.

5. Sexual immorality subjects you to an unholy union.

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

Sex was created by God to be a sacred physical union in marriage between one man and one woman. Sacred means to be set apart. This sacred physical union was the only act of marriage that God said should not be shared with another.

This one flesh union leaves a powerful impression on your desires, your emotions, your mind, and your conscience, that is unlike any other human activity. One encounter leaves such a mark on your soul that it can be relived repeatedly for the rest of your life.

This union and the impression it leaves is very healthy when you are married.

But an unholy union is very destructive to both your soul and your marriage when it occurs outside of marriage.

Being united to the Lord leaves an even more incredible impression on your soul.

If you commit sexual immorality it creates an inner conflict in your soul that will lead to emotional and mental instability. This will include shame, anxiety, and depression. If you continue to fail, you will begin to compensate for your shame by being religious.

Sexual immorality subjects you to an unholy union.

6. Sexual immorality subjects your body to potential problems that is unlike any other sin.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

From medical science, we know that sex is dangerous. There is a transmission that can be very harmful to the body. It is one of the reasons that there were so many laws in the Old Testament for the Jews about who they could marry. (Lev. 18:6-18). It is one of the reasons that virginity was so important to God and why some sexual sins were punishable by death.

Science knows about STD's. But this transmission of medical problems is not something that modern science fully understands.

Paul understood that there are health problems that can be transferred to others and future descendants through sexual immorality.

When we have a health problem, we want to know why did this happen? What caused this problem? God gets a lot of blame for medical problems that were transferred to us from our own immorality or from some rogue descendant. The wages of sin is death. Besides murder, there is not a more destructive sin to your health and the health of your descendants then sexual immorality.

7. Sexual immorality subjects the temple of God to an unholy union.

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

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. NKJV

In the old covenant, the first hot spot for God's presence on earth was the ark of the covenant which was kept in the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle of Moses. That tabernacle for the ark was eventually replaced by the tabernacle of David. That tabernacle was replaced by the tabernacle of Solomon in Jerusalem. After the tabernacle of Solomon was destroyed, there is not any record of the ark of the covenant. Even after the tabernacle of Herod was built, there is not any record of the ark of the covenant.

The prophets of the Old Testament predicted that the Hot Spot of God's presence on earth was going to be in men and women. Jesus said His followers would be those men and women.

If you receive Jesus, you are bought with a price. You are not your own. Jesus sends His Holy Spirit to dwell in you to occupy what is rightfully His. You are the temple of the Holy Spirit. You should present your body to God and glorify God with your body because your body is God's temple.

If you commit sexual immorality, you are desecrating God's temple.

For these seven reasons, Paul said flee sexual immorality; run away; shun it.

Let me conclude by reiterating Paul's reasons.

[Sexual immorality....](#)

1. [Subjects you to your old identity](#)
2. [Subjects you to the power of the law of sin](#)
3. [Subjects you to perverted appetites](#)
4. [Subjects the body of Jesus to an unholy union](#)
5. [Subjects you to an unholy union](#)
6. [Subjects your body to health problems](#)
7. [Subjects the temple of God to an unholy union](#)

No one loves you like God loves you! You have been bought with a price that no one could pay for you and with a price that no one would be willing to pay for you.

The price was...

- Jesus became a man for you.
- Jesus became sin for you.
- Jesus became the object of God's wrath of God for you.

Jesus paid this price for you even though you are His enemy; even though you are a sinner; even though you are polluted by sin.

Jesus paid this price for you even though there is nothing about you that makes you appealing to a Holy and Righteous God.

Has your heart been changed by the love of God?
Have you received Jesus?

Church at Western Hills, will you flee sexual immorality?
Church in OKC, will you flee sexual immorality?