

Your Body Is Not Your Own

Long Beach Alliance Church • April 26th, 2009 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
~ 1st Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)**

I) Freedom From Something AND For Something

- A) The phrase "all things are lawful" (NIV, "permissible") was a phrase which Paul quotes two times (1st Corinthians 6:12, note again in 10:23), an adaptation of a Corinthian phrase celebrating freedom in Christ.

- B) Through the centuries many Christians have struggled with taking liberties with the freedom of grace. The idea goes something like the following (mocking) poem...

Free from the law,
O happy condition;
I can sin as I please
And still have remission

Paul even addresses this perspective in Romans 6:15-18.

- C) In fact, Paul saw great freedom in Christ (cf. Romans 8:1-10). However, this freedom was not to “do as you please,” but “freedom to not sin.” Instead of slavery to sin, there is freedom from sin, and slavery to righteousness.
- D) Thus, Paul’s emphasis for followers of Christ is to express our freedom in terms of “for Christ” (1st Corinthians 6:13-14) rather than “from sin” (which could be construed as total liberty to as one pleases). Freedom with authentic purpose!

2) Not All Things Are Profitable... For Example...

- A) In illustrating the point that the physical body of the follower of Christ belongs to the Lord, Paul contrasts union with Christ against union with a prostitute (6:15-16).
- B) Paul condemns union with a prostitute (not a big surprise), but does so to illustrate that the reason is not as a punishment or kill-joy judgment, rather it violates the “one Spirit” relationship Christians have with God (6:17).
- C) Thus, all forms of immorality (porneo) should be completely avoided (FLEE!). Why? It damages the worship of God in the midst of His temple, our bodies (6:18-19).
- D) There is a “oneness” which exists between God and His people. When that “oneness” is replaced by something which is “immorality” (any “porneo”), the center of our worship has changed. We are both flesh and spirit!
- E) Remember, your freedom has come with the price of Jesus Christ, and Him crucified (6:20). Therefore, glorify God!