

I Cor 6:12-8:13

Corinthians, Session Five

Don't Let Your Body Lead You Astray (6:12-20)

What Christian doctrines underscore a high view of the body?

The purpose of the body in the Lord (13)

The resurrection of the body in the Lord (14)

The interaction of the body with the Lord (15-17)

The habitation of the body by the Lord (19)

The redemption of the body by the Lord (19-20)

“You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.” We honor God by how we live!

Guidelines for Sexual Intimacy (7:1-9)

T / F Marriage is a gift.

T / F Singleness is a gift.

In this section, Paul makes four statements that challenged the view of marriage.

- 1) Polygamy is prohibited.
- 2) Conjugal rights of husband and wife are mutual.
- 3) Couples have the need and ability to temporarily abstain from sex.
- 4) Sexual temptation is a frequently used by Satan.

How might v. 4 be useful in answering the charge that Paul was a male chauvinist?

“Any honest survey of the prayer life of Christian couples would establish two common factors: one, that couples often find praying together the most difficult part of their whole relationship; two, that it is the husband particularly who encounters the greater problems in praying with his wife” (p. 119).

“It is by no means certain precisely what Paul’s marital status was. It has been normally assumed that he was never married, but this would have been extremely unusual for a Jewish rabbi. [As a member of the Sanhedrin, Acts 26:10, Paul would have been married.] It is conceivable that, on his conversion to Christ, his wife decided to leave him and return to her parental home. Of course, it is possible that Paul was a widower...” (p. 121).

The Religiously Mixed Marriage (7:10-16)

What does it mean that one believing spouse can consecrate the other?

Calvin: “The godliness of the one does more to ‘sanctify’ the marriage than the ungodliness of the other to make it unclean” (p. 126).

Being Content with Present Status (7:17-24)

There are three basic priorities in the apostle's mind, all of which permeate his teaching in the rest of the chapter: the need to be firm in our situation; the need to be flexible about material things and the need to be free from any distractions from our single purpose of pleasing the Lord" (p. 129).

"Circumcision and slavery represented the two most divisive phenomena in the world of the new Testament. Circumcision represented the greatest religious barrier, slavery the biggest social barrier. In each case, Paul is bold enough to assert, the salvation of God in Christ has rendered them null and void" (p. 130).

Why do we default to human labels still today?

"Christ overturns all human categories and marks of distinction...Jesus himself is the one true reality for all people" (p. 132).

Note how 7:23 echoes 6:20. Paul returns to the idea that Christ owns us.

Creating Stability in Uncertain Times (7:25-40)

What is this distress, the time that is cut short and the form of the world passing away?

"In view of the troubled times Paul felt it best for men to stay as they were. When high seas are raging, it is not time for changing ships" (p. 135).

What about engaged couples?

What about widows?

Let Love Control Knowledge (8:1-13)

Sacrifice to the gods was an integral part of ancient life. It might be two kinds, private or public.

--In *private* sacrifice, the animal was divided into three parts. A token amount was burned at the altar...; the priests received their rightful portion...; the worshipper himself received the rest of the meat. With the meat he gave a banquet.

--In *public* sacrifice, after a portion was burned and the priests received their share, the rest of the meat went to the magistrates. What they did not use was sold to the shops and markets. Therefore, even when meat was bought, it may have first been offered to idols already.

So could a Christian eat food offered to idols?

Yes (why?)

No (why not?)

What's the overriding principle on polarized issues like this one?