

Sunday, August 28, 2016—I Corinthians 6:16-18: Flee Fornication

Introduction

- Last week during our time together we studied verses 13 through 15. By way of introduction, I would like to review the following points from last week.
- Verse 13—God did not create our bodies for “fornication” and the practicing of illicit sexual relations but for the Lord. This is in contrast to meats being for the belly and the belly for meats. Paul is NOT saying the body is for fornication and fornication for the body. Rather, Paul is saying that the body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body.
- God created our bodies to be the mechanism through which the life of Christ is lived out. An unsaved person who thinks their body was created for fornication is living in a state of internal psychological turmoil because they are seeking to satisfy the needs of their soul and spirit through the fleshly appetite of sex. As such they are brought under the power of fornication.
- Verse 14—on the basis of the established fact that the body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body in verse 13, God the Father does two things in verse 14. God the Father raised Christ from the dead so that he could dwell and reside within us **now** with the full expectation and anticipation that **in the future** we would be raised “up by his own power” and fitted with new body so that we could dwell in his presence for all eternity. Christ ought to be the power in our lives.
- Verse 15—is it fitting that the members of Christ be joined with the members of a harlot? Paul is using the principle of association to awaken the Corinthians out of their carnal slumber. It is shocking and unbecoming that one who is associated with Christ, a member of His body, would also be associated with an unclean harlot, a member and willful participation with her in her fleshly lifestyle.

I Corinthians 6:16

- **What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.**
- Notice once again Paul’s use of questions. This verse like verse 15, is comprised of two questions and one statement.
- After concluding in verse 15 that it is not fitting, becoming, or proper for a member of Christ to join himself with a harlot, Paul is now doing to explain why that is the case in verse 16.
- *know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body*—the verb “is joined” is in the present tense thereby indicating that this type of activity was an ongoing problem for the saints in Corinth.

- The believer who is joined sexually with a harlot is one body with her, according to Paul. Herein lies the problem, verse 15 says that a believers body is a member of Christ. As a member of Christ we are part of his one body.
 - I Corinthians 12:12
- *for two, saith he, shall be one flesh*—the answer to Paul’s question is that when one has sex with anyone, harlot or otherwise, to whom they are not married they are one flesh with that person. The end of verse 16 is an illusion to the basic definition of marriage found throughout scripture.
- Genesis 2:23-25
- Matthew 19:5
- Ephesians 5:31
- In all these verses marriage is described and defined by the following three things.
 - *Leaving*—to loose, to depart from, to leave behind—man serves as the leader in this regard.
 - *Cleaving*—to stick to, stick with, follow closely, to be joined together.
 - *One Flesh*—This is the physical part of the marriage relationship, this is what makes marriage marriage.
- According to God’s word, all three of these (Leaving, Cleaving, and One Flesh) must be present to equal marriage. Jumping straight to being one flesh with someone does not equal marriage.
 - Exodus 22:16-17—the sexual relationship did not marry them. Marriage is more than a physical relationship.
 - John 4:16-18—this women has had five husbands but Christ tells her that she does not currently have a husband. Simply living in a relationship of intimacy does not equal marriage.
 - Malachi 2:14—fundamentally marriage is a contractual relationship for a life-long companionship.
- I Corinthians 6:16—when one has an intimate physical relationship with someone to whom they are not married they are one body and one flesh with that person. They have functioned outside of God’s prescribed order.

- Premature physical intimacy clouds ones judgment and brings one under its power.

I Corinthians 6:17

- **But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.**
- In contrast to the one who is joined to a harlot being one body her in a physical union, the one who is joined to the Lord is one spirit, a spiritual union.
 - I Corinthians 12:13
 - Galatians 3:27-28
 - Ephesians 4:3—since the basic meaning of the word baptize means identification, we observe that the Holy Spirit is the one who identified all believers with Christ in this spiritual union.

I Corinthians 6:18

- **Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.**
- *Flee fornication*—the verb “flee” is a present active imperative which equals a command to get as far away from something as fast as possible. The English verb “flee” carries the following meanings, according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828):
 - To run with rapidity, as from danger; to attempt to escape; to hasten from danger or expected evil. The enemy fled at the first fire.
 - To depart; to leave; to hasten away.
 - To avoid; to keep at a distance from.
- I Corinthians 6:12—there is nothing expedient or edifying for a believer in fornication. All the sex will do is bring you under its power. So Paul’s instructions are to “flee fornication.”
- II Timothy 2:22—“Flee also youthful lusts. . .”
- I Thessalonians 4:1-5—“concupiscence” equals, “lust; unlawful or irregular desire of sexual pleasure. In a more general sense, the coveting of carnal things, or an irregular appetite for worldly good; inclination for unlawful enjoyments,” according to Noah Webster.

- *Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body*—why should we “flee fornication?” Because when a believer commits fornication he or she is sinning against their own body.
 - I Corinthians 6:13
- Challenge everyone to “flee fornication”
 - Young people
 - Pornography
 - Do things differently