

HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODIES

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

Six times, St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in chapter 6, “Do you not know. . .” Six times Paul wrote these words to remind the Corinthians about well-known facts that were generally accepted by everyone. The sixth time is recorded in the text for today’s devotion.

Corinth was a large city known for immorality. Temple prostitution was part of their pagan religious rites and rituals. Three out of the six occurrences of “Do you not know” are found in verses 15, 16 and 19, all addressing the issue of the immoral practice of this temple prostitution. In the Corinthian culture it was socially acceptable for men to have sexual relations with boys and temple prostitutes. Newly converted to Christianity, some argued they were free to do anything (1 Corinthians 6:12), including participating in these immoral activities. They believed what they did with their bodies had no affect upon their new spiritual existence. Paul replied, “The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.” (1 Corinthians 6:13)

In His creating work, God created males and females to be sexual, only with their spouse. (Genesis 2:24) Jesus taught, “What God has joined together, let man not divide apart.” (Mark 10:9) In today’s American culture of “living together,” recognizing that this occurs among all ages, not just young adults; the saturation of households with soft and hard pornography on line, via cable and major network shows; current efforts to legalize or at least make prostitution a misdemeanor; the concern voiced by the Scriptures here in 1 Corinthians 6 is still God’s concern for you and all who make up the Christian church today.

1 Corinthians 6:18 exhorts, “Flee from sexual immorality. . .” “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?” (verse 19) And, verses 19 and 20 remind you, “You are not your own; you were bought at a price.” “Therefore honor God with your bodies,” (1 Corinthians 6:20) because “it is no longer you who live but Christ who lives in you.” (Galatians 2:20)

Prayer: Father God, I pray this day deliver me from all evil especially sexual immorality so prevalent today. Every day send Your Spirit to lead and guide me in the choices I must make that they are in accord with Your will and give honor to You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits,
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

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