

Sunday, August 21, 2016—I Corinthians 6:13-15: Your Bodies Are the Members of Christ

### Introduction

- Last week we began studying the second half of chapter 6 by looking at verse 12. In doing so we observed the following points.
- Within the flow of chapter 6, verse 12 marks the beginning of a new paragraph. Beginning in verse 12, Paul is going to start talking about a new topic from what he had been addressing in verses 1-11. Paul is going to begin talking to the Corinthians about how one should possess his body in honor as the temple of the God.
- After studying verse 12 and illustrating it with the issue of “drunkenness,” I tried to encapsulate the content of verse 12 by showing you the following Pauline decision making model.
- As believers we need to get past the question of is something “lawful” or permissible and deal with the following questions instead:
  - Is it expedient i.e., is it profitable?
  - Does it edify (I Cor. 10:23)?
  - Am I allowing it to have power over me?
- This morning we want to move on through the passage and see what else Paul has to say about these issues.

### I Corinthians 6:13

- **Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.**
- *Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats*—when taken at face value this statement is self explanatory. The same God who created our physical bodies also created compatible food for their growth and sustenance.
- Why would Paul bring this up in this context? Often, one of the first questions that comes up regarding lawfulness is related to clean and unclean food.
  - I Timothy 4:3-4
- *but God shall destroy both it and them*—just as the issue of meats brings up questions related to lawfulness it also touches upon the issue of power. People often allow food to have power over them as they indulge beyond that which is profitable.

- Such over indulgence in food is not expedient because God will destroy both meats and the belly.
- *Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body*—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. The Lord gave you a body for a reason.
  - II Corinthians 4:10-11—Christ desires to live his out through the vehicle of our mortal flesh.
  - II Corinthians 5:17
  - Galatians 2:20
- I Corinthians 6:19-20—the Lord created our bodies to be the vehicle through which his life is lived and put on full display.
- I Corinthians 6:13—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.

### **I Corinthians 6:14**

- **And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.**
- 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.
- *hath both raised up the Lord*—note the use of the past tense. God hath already raised up Christ.
- *and will also raise up us by his own power*—note the use of the future tense in the second half of the verse. God will raise us up by his own power.
  - Ephesians 1:19-20
  - II Corinthians 5:1
  - Philippians 3:20-21

- God the father raised Christ from the dead so that he could dwell and resided 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.
- I Corinthians 6:14—Christ ought to be the power in our lives.

### I Corinthians 6:15

- **Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make *them* the members of an harlot? God forbid.**
- Notice that Paul once again returns to his questioning format. As we have seen in previous studies, Paul uses this methodology frequently in chapter 6. Consider the following verses:
  - 2-3, 5, 7, 9
- Verse 15 is comprised of two questions and one statement.
- *Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ*—here Paul is saying that the Corinthians collectively, all of them, in their individual bodies are all the members of Christ.
  - I Corinthians 12:12-26
- *shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot*—on the basis of the fact that the Corinthians are members of Christ, Paul asks them this second question.
- Given the fact that prostitution was part of the temple worship to the goddess Aphrodite there is no doubt that the Corinthians had participated in this form harlotry in the past. The question here is should they continue in this course of action now that they have been made members of Christ.
- Is it fitting at all 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.
- *God forbid*—is Paul’s answer to his second question. May it never be the case that such an association exists.
- Next week we will study the details of why this was Paul’s answer.