

The Body for the Lord

1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you...”*”

For many of us, before we were saved, this list applied to us. But notice that the verse says, *“such were some of you.”* That is not what you should be now. If you are one of those who was a fornicator before you were saved, and after you were supposedly saved you continued in fornication, it could not be said of you that it was something you used to be. If you continued on in fornication after you made a profession, you are one of those who is being warned to be not deceived. You need to be saved from your unrighteousness. What the Bible is saying is that when the Lord saves the unrighteous, he saves them *from* their unrighteousness. What God calls unrighteous are those things that are mentioned in these verses. Men may say it is all right to lie, to be

immoral, to be a sodomite, to drink, to take drugs. Men put their approval on everything God calls sin in the Bible. Just because a man says it is all right does not mean that God says so. God says that these things are so grievous to Him that if you are not saved from them you will never be a part of His kingdom. You must be saved, and God is the only one who can save the sinner.

“And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of God.” (I Cor. 6:11) That is what has happened to you if you have been saved—you have been washed from your sins; you have been sanctified. You have been set apart from the power of sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. God has declared you righteous. God washed you with the blood of His Son and forgave you. Man does not have the power. You can try to turn over a new leaf, do better, or stop the sin that you are involved in, but you cannot deliver yourself from sin. Only the blood of Jesus can wash away sins. It is God that you have sinned against, therefore it is to God that you must go for forgiveness. It is His forgiveness that you must have. You can gain forgiveness from all the people that you have

ever harmed, but their forgiveness will never make a way for you into heaven.

Once you are saved, God has a plan and a purpose for your life. Your body belongs to God and is to be used for him. The reason God washed, sanctified, and justified you was not so that after you were saved you could live a life like other men, but that you would live a life of righteousness and obedience.

Many people do not take their body seriously. Because they were not careful with their body or do with it what God said to do, they cannot serve God as they may have a desire to do. If you are lost without God and use your body for adultery, fornication, sodomy, or drunkenness you need to consider what the Bible says is going to happen to your body. God warns those who will listen.

“All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.” (I Cor. 6:12) After you are saved by the grace of God, the desire to serve the Lord is placed in your heart and you do not want to live under the power of any but God. You should be sure that you are being ruled

over by God, and not by any other kind of power. The Bible says as Christians we have liberty in the Lord. But this verse is telling us that just because we are free to do certain things does not mean we need to do them. They may not be good for you or good when it comes to you serving God. You could go to the doctor tomorrow and find out from him that you are on the border of becoming diabetic. You are free as a Christian, after finding out that information, to go home and drink soda and eat ice cream until you cannot eat any more, but it is not going to be good for you and will probably injure your body and hinder what you can do for the Lord. Just because something is lawful does not mean it is expedient. As a child of God, what you do with your body, what you put into your body, and how you use body should always be accompanied with the thought, “How does this affect my service for the Lord? Will this help me serve God or will it be a hindrance?”

“Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats...” (I Cor. 6:13a) It is not a sin to eat. (Praise the Lord!) God designed the body to help us digest and convert the food into the energy and strength for our body so that we can do what God wants us to do. The only

things we are forbidden by God to eat, as New Testament believers, are blood and things strangled. Other than that, as far as the Bible is concerned, you can eat anything. The verse continues and says, “...but God shall destroy both it and them.”

God made our body to do certain things. God made our bodies so that we could eat. Men's bodies were made so they can work. God made a woman's body to be able to have children. God made our bodies so that we can fellowship and commune with one another. These are natural things that God designed the body to do. When we do these things, we are not sinning against the Word of God. If we are going to function here on earth we must do these normal, natural things. Thank God we have a body that allows us to do these necessary things. There is nothing wrong with exercising and working hard. God said by the sweat of your face you are to earn your bread. God gave men a body to go out and work hard to provide for their families. There are too many men that do not want to work. They are looking for a job that does not require hard work. God says that men ought to work. The Bible says that if a man calls himself a Christian and will not even go out and work to provide

for his family he has denied the faith and is not anything the Bible stands for. We do not want to hear that kind of man talking about how much he loves Jesus and wants to serve Him because we can see how lazy he is. How can you serve God when you will not even provide for your family? God is not interested in that kind of lip service and hypocrisy. God gave us a body to work.

“...Now the body is not for fornication.” (1 Cor. 6:13 b) God said, “That body I gave you, it is not for fornication!” If you use your body for immorality you are using it for something God said He never gave it to be used for. God gave me my hands to do many things with, but one thing they were not designed to be is a hammer. Now, I can make a fist and try to pound in a nail with my hand, but it is not going to work very well because God did not make my hand to use as a hammer. What is going to happen if I use my hand for something God did not design it for? I am going to hurt my hand! Your body was made for many things, but it was not made for fornication. What is going to happen if you use your body for what God said it was not made for? You are going to hurt your body far more than you realize! Even those who were saved out of

their fornication did things to their body while they were living in that sin that they will live with until the day they die. They still have the consequences of those years that they lived in sin. Being saved gives you forgiveness from your sins and a place in heaven, but there are still the consequences of your sins to reap. When you are saved you should determine to use your body for only those things that are natural and taught by God.

***“...the body is not for fornication, BUT FOR THE LORD...”* (I Cor. 6:13c) The Bible does not only tell you what the body is not to be used for, it tells us what it *is* to be used for—the Lord! As you naturally use your body to eat, work, walk, fellowship, exercise, and many other things what do you do with your body for the Lord? There are many people that think they are doing well because they are not using their body for sin, but they are not using it for anything for the Lord! When you use your body to eat, that is for you. When you use your body to work and make money, that is for you. When you use your body to exercise, that is for you. But how are you using your body in the Lord's work? When God redeemed us, He said he wanted our bodies. Your body was created by God, for God and His work. Are you really**

using your body for the Lord? Going to church is good, but what else are you doing through the week?

“...but for the Lord; and THE LORD FOR THE BODY.” (I Cor. 6:13d) If you take your body and give it to the Lord, He will be for your body. People who want to serve the Lord have just as many problems and obstacles in their bodies as other people. The way they are different when they have all the difficulties of their bodies being diseased, crippled, or wearing out with age is that they have the Lord for their body. That does not mean that you will be healed from everything you have or that you will never get a disease, but it means that despite that God will help you. If you will continue to use your body to do something for the glory of God, the souls of men, getting the gospel out around the world, letting people know about Jesus, and trying to help the saints of God and the church of the living God, the Lord will be for your body. So many people have justified in their mind that they have done their part already. Do you want the Lord to cease being for your body when you cease using your body for Him? We need to abound in the work of the Lord. I have never found a justification to quit and retire on

God in the Bible. We must abound and be zealous of good works.

“And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will raise up us by His own power.” (1 Cor. 6:14) One day these bodies are going to die, but if we are believers in Jesus Christ Who is the Resurrection and the Life, we are going to be resurrected. He is going to give us a new body and we will get to live with Jesus for ever and ever. Meats and bellies and bodies will die and go back to dust, but for the believer there is a resurrection. We will be enjoying the riches of His grace throughout all eternity. He wants our bodies. He wants us to use our bodies for Him even when we have to deny ourselves things that we want to do for ourselves with our bodies. God is telling us that we can deny ourselves some of those things down here that are not sinful, but that we enjoy doing, so that we can do things for the Lord instead because we are going to have eternity to enjoy all of heaven. You are not losing out by serving the Lord now instead of yourself. You will enjoy yourself to the fullest in heaven.

“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. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.” (I Cor. 6:15,16) I do not fully understand what this means, but I believe what it says. When you are saved, you are baptized into the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:12 and 13 says, *“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”* All of us, if we have put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have been placed in the body of Christ. We have all been made to drink the same Spirit. Salvation is not something that we do; it is something that God does when He places us as a member of the body of Christ through His Spirit. If I am in Christ and Christ is in me, that makes us one! What does that mean, to be one with Christ? It does not mean that I am Christ or that Christ is me. It means that there will never be Christ without me and I will never be without Christ. We are one.

Do we want to be one with a harlot in this

same way by committing fornication? Once you are a Christian you should abhor the very idea of using your body in fornication the same way you did before you were saved. When a man and woman go their separate ways after committing immorality together, they may believe that is the end and think no more about it, but that is not the case. When that man gets in his car and drives home thinking his immoral act is over and done with, in a sense he took that woman home with him because they have become one body. There is a sense in which he will never get away from that person. Ask Jeffery Epstein, Harvey Weinstein, or Bill Cosby. Though they did what they did to some of those women thirty or forty years ago and may have forgotten about them, they will never get away from those women. They are still a part of their life.

Your body is not for fornication and when you use it in that way you will hurt it in ways that none of us can understand. And the second consequence is that the person you committed your sexual immorality with will be a part of your body until you turn back to dust. That is what the Bible teaches.

“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one

spirit.” (I Cor. 6: 17) God said when we are joined to Him we have no business being joined to a harlot. Your spiritual relationship as a believer ought to mean so much more than a physical relationship with a harlot. Why would you, as a Christian want to jeopardize your relationship with God for the sake of a relationship with a harlot who is only going to do things to your body and life that can cause nothing but trouble.

“Flee fornication.” (I Cor. 6:18a) You need to run from everything in the world that is designed to pull you into immorality. You may think you are strong enough, mature enough, or spiritual enough to resist evil, but you need to run. Married men, if there is a sensual woman tempting you, or young unmarried men, if there are loose girls who are flirting with you, you must run from them! Maybe you think you can watch pornography on the internet and it will not pull you into sin. Run from it! Run from dirty movies! Run from lustful men, ladies! Run from sensual women, men! Flee fornication! That is what God said.

There is something about a man that it is natural for him to desire a woman. When God created everything, He looked around and

said that it was all good, but when He looked at the man in the garden He said, *“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.”* (Gen. 2:18) So God created a woman and brought her to the man. She was to be a help to him. Not to name the animals—Adam had already done that, but to help him be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth. The first time someone tries drugs, he probably did not want to. The first time someone takes a drink of alcohol, he may not have wanted to. Often, people are pressured into these sins. But it is very natural when a young man gets around a girl for him to desire that woman. Because of that, you must flee fornication! You cannot play around with that sin because it does not go against your nature. Your nature pulls you that way. Flee fornication!

“...Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” (I Cor. 6:18b) Every time a person commits fornication they are harming their own body. People whose bodies start falling apart at age forty, fifty, or sixty are not in that condition because what they did at that age, but because of how they treated their body at age eighteen, twenty, or

thirty. They were sinning against their body and thought they were getting by with it because they were young, but God's Word is always true. If you were saved out of immorality it is critical that you use your body for the Lord so that the Lord is for your body. The harm that you did to your body by fornication will still be working inside of you, but if you are using your body to serve the Lord, He will be for your body.

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.” (I Cor. 6:19, 20) Your body, if you are saved, is the temple of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is on the inside. Your body does not belong to you; it belongs to the One who redeemed you. Inside and outside you are to glorify God. Have you ever heard someone say, “It doesn't matter what we do on the outside. God knows the heart.”? No. God is concerned about the inside AND the outside. What if that were how churches were run? Would it permissible to say, “It doesn't matter what the outside looks like, as long as what we are doing inside is right.”? What if the

outside of the church was covered in beer advertisements and dirty pictures? Could we say then, “It only matters what it looks like on the inside.”? No! God expects us to be holy on the inside AND the outside. God wants your body to be a testimony on the outside and the inside. That is what He says.

The body is for the Lord, and He is for the body. Are you using your body for the Lord? If you are not saved you need to be, so that you can start using it for the Lord. If you are saved, you need to be sure that you are not only not using your body for sin, but that you are using it for the Lord.