

4Ws

WHAT'S WRONG WITH US?



WHO OWNS YOUR BODY?

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



WORSHIP

This is Amazing Grace, See the Light, One God, Agnus Dei/King of Kings/I Exalt Thee, Worthy of It All

WELCOME

What is the most expensive thing you own? How do you take good care of it?

WORD

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20 FOR CONTEXT)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

What we believe to be the true answer to the question “who owns your body?” will shape how we will live the rest of our lives. Our answer will dictate our trajectory and will determine whether when we get to the end of our lives, we will look back with satisfaction, joy, and peace or we will look back with much regret hoping that we could turn the clock back and start all over again.

We belong to God by virtue of Him having created us (**Psalm 24:1**). He owns us. Paul further teaches us 3 things about our body:

I. PURPOSE: HONOR CHRIST (1 Corinthians 6:12-14)

Our body has been given an amazing purpose by God. All things are lawful but not all things are profitable or beneficial (**v.12**). Paul is building a case here. The real case however is that our body is for the Lord (**v.13**); we should honor Him. God created us with certain needs and desires and also equipped us with the ability to have those desires and needs satisfied. We eat when we are hungry, for example. However, do not equate our ability to satisfy our hunger with the ability to satisfy our desire for sexual pleasure. They are not in the same category. The problem in Corinth was that sexual pleasure, prostitution, etc. was available, acceptable, and affordable. It was even part of their idolatrous worship experience. Paul was telling the Corinthians our body is not for immorality. It is for the Lord. We belong to Him. Therefore, our purpose in life should be to honor Jesus Christ.

God loves us and cares for us so much. He has an amazing plan for our present and future. In the same way He raised Jesus then gave Him a glorified supernatural body, we will eventually have the same thing one of these days (**v.14**). We are citizens of heaven (**Philippians 3:20-21**).

When we remain physically pure, we are honoring Christ and we are also honoring ourselves. The will of God for us is sanctification (**1 Thessalonians 4:3-5**). One of the minimum benchmarks of our life is sexual purity. Don't have a short-term mindset of our physical body because God has an amazing long-term plan. Honor Christ now because we will do that in heaven forever (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**).

II. PRIVILEGE: JOINED TO CHRIST (1 Corinthians 6:15-18)

Our privilege is that we are joined to Christ. **Psalm 139:13-15** describes our body. God's formation of us in our mother's womb is with intentionality and intricacy. It was not delegated to angels nor relegated to chance. It was done by God's own hand. We are His workmanship. We are His handiwork. We are His masterpiece. There is nobody else like you. Our bodies are amazing!

Paul emphasizes that our physical bodies are members of Christ (**v.15**). Physical intimacy was designed by God for a special purpose and experience. It was created by Him exclusively for a biological man and biological woman who are married to each other. No other scenario applies to the enjoyment of such physical and sexual pleasure because there is more to it than just the union of physical bodies. It is

WHO OWNS YOUR BODY?

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

WORD

so special it is reserved only for husband and wife. It is the parallel to the kind of intimate relationship God wants to have with us. Being joined to Christ is a very special relationship that we have no business of tarnishing, compromising, or dishonoring that relationship through sexual immorality (**vv.16-17**).

Genesis 4:1 implies the kind of relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. God knows us and He wants Himself to be known by us. When we are joined to Christ, we get to know Him experientially (**Hosea 2:19-20**). We are the bride of Christ and Christ is the bridegroom (**2 Corinthians 11:2**).

That is why it is important to flee immorality (**v.18**). Immorality is selling off or surrendering our sexual purity. It is deadly. We cannot let our guard down. It does damage to ourselves.

David (**1 Samuel 16:12, 2 Samuel 11:2, 2 Samuel 11:4**) and Joseph (**Genesis 39:6, Genesis 39:7,10, Genesis 39:8,9,12**) had contrasting stories. When seduced by Potiphar's wife, Joseph would not give in. Why? **Genesis 39** tells us clearly what motivated Joseph at this critical choice point in his life. You see, he was able to resist because of the deep heart devotion he had to his Lord. His heart was not ruled by horizontal pleasure but by vertical worship (Paul Tripp).

III. PRECIOUS: BOUGHT BY CHRIST (1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

Our body is precious because we have been bought by Christ. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (**v.19**). Back in the Old Testament, the temple was for God (**1 Chronicles 29:1-5**). It was a magnificent sight; nothing on earth was like the temple that God had Solomon build. During the dedication of the temple, the glory—the shining light of the Lord filled the temple (**2 Chronicles 7:1-3**). Today, we are God's temple (**Matthew 5:16, 1 Peter 1:15-16**). We are precious because we have been bought by Christ (**v.20**). Let the light of Christ shine through us.

If you are a professing Christian and you feel you have messed up so bad and brought shame to the name of Jesus, make a U-turn in your life today. Come to Jesus. Confess your sins and present your body to Him (**Romans 12:1**).

If you have not entered into a relationship with Jesus, know what Jesus did for you (**Hebrews 10:5-7, 10**). Jesus, the King of heaven, took on the form of man. Though the pain of bearing the sins of the world is unbearable, He did the Father's will. By this will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ. He is the example we follow. When Jesus the king of heaven and creator of all things took on human form, He devoted His body to the purpose of God the Father. We should do the same thing.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What difference will it make in your daily life if you truly believe God owns your body?

2. Setting It Right.

In what situations have you experienced victory over immoral thoughts or actions? In what situations have you had failures?

3. Living It Out.

What practical steps will you take to keep yourself pure and holy before God?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people struggling with sexual immorality in all forms. Offer a listening ear and a safe place for them to openly share their struggles. Connect them to people or ministries that can help them. Share the message that they have a purpose, a privilege, and are precious in the Lord Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's help and comfort, salvation for the Moroccan people devastated by 6.8 magnitude earthquake; for the Libyan people grappling with floods that destroyed homes and businesses, lost loved ones.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; conflict in African, East Asian and Middle East countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

1 CORINTHIANS 6:20

²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.