

## Corinthianized

### The Church of Corinth

***They failed to understand the application of a crucified messiah, 1:17ff.***

***They were proud, 5:2***

Evidenced by divisions, 1:12

Evidenced by tolerated incest, 5

*Specific reference*

Evidenced by lawsuits against one another, 6:1-8

*Specific situations*

Evidenced by the fact that...

***More than a few were still engaged in physical intimacy with prostitutes, 6:12-20***

**The City of Corinth**

*A major sea-port of the Greco-Roman world*

*Known for its vice and unrestrained sexual indulgence.*

*Quotes from Garland*

*This passage implies that there is no specific case Paul references; it is a general widespread problem in the church.*

**Their problem**

*The overall focus of this passage is clear, 6:18a! The specifics are difficult.*

*A false view of freedom in Christ, 6:12a*

Everything is permissible for me, 2x; 10:23

*A false view of the body, 6:13*

“Food is for the stomach and stomach for food but God will destroy them both”

*Paul's response to their false view of freedom, 6:12*

“Not everything is beneficial” reference to the church.

***Christian conduct is not based upon whether the believer has the right to do something, but it is based upon helping those around you.***

***Just because you can do something doesn't mean you should.***

**"I will not be mastered by anything"**

***What you do regularly begins to control you. Freedom does not mean you are controlled by your appetites.***

***Paul's response to the false view of their bodies, 13b-15***

Your body is not yours to do with as you want, 6:13b

God will not destroy your body, he will raise it up (6:14 and chapter 15). Christ had a resurrected body, so will you.

Your body now belongs to the body of Christ, how could you have sex with one who is a prostitute, 14-15

Sex is not just a physical act, it unites body and spirit. How could you unite body and spirit with a prostitute, 6:16-17?

***Specific restatement***

Flee immorality, 6:18a

***There is a time when it is wise to "run!"***

Paul may have had Joseph's example in mind; Gen 39:12.

***There are a lot of reasons why, but Paul focuses on the theological ones.***

***Further misunderstanding 6:18b***

All *other* sins a man commits are outside his body. . .not true

He who sins sins against his own body...not true

*It's my body, I can do with it what I want.*

Your body is a temple belonging to the Holy Spirit

You were bought with a price

***Glorify God with your body ("and spirit" is not in most mss), 6:20***

It matters how you treat your body.

You can't abuse your body with food (eating too much or too little or the wrong kinds), lack of sleep, illegitimate drugs, and illicit behavior of any kind without serious consequences.

Some people abuse their bodies, others worship them: both are wrong...

... because isn't your body. It belongs to God.

## So what?

***Freedom in Christ does not mean I can do anything I want.***

Freedom in Christ means I am free from sin's bondage

Freedom in Christ means I am free to serve others

***Your body matters to God. It's his through redemption.***

Don't worship it; don't abuse it; do take care of it.

The body is your vehicle to live in to glorify God.

***Sexual immorality of any kind is wrong because***

It violates the "one flesh" concept

It unites your body and spirit sinfully with another

It isn't your body to do with as you want. It is God's.

***What if I've been failing in these matters?***

Repent.

Ask God to help; get someone to hold you accountable.

Take the body seriously: God does.

If you've never trusted Christ as Lord and savior, do so today.