

1. Christians made clean through Christ.
 - a. Paul said to the Corinthians, “You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” Everything that he says next comes as the “therefore” to this statement.
 - b. Paul was writing to a church that liked the idea of being forgiven and going to heaven, but didn’t so much reflect the Christian life or good fruits that should follow conversion.
 - c. He was trying to make clear to them that being in Christ and having been forgiven for their sins, it was important that they put their sin aside and strive to live godly lives.
 - d. I was at lunch recently and one of the people at the table- not a member of our church community, and not someone I know well- was telling another person at the table about his plans for an extravagant addition to his already very nice home. I didn’t hear the details as I was engaged in another conversation. But I did hear this part. It was clear that the listener didn’t see the need for this addition as she asked, “Why are you adding this on to your home?” The man simply laughed and said, “Because I can.”
 - e. The Corinthians had the mindset that they had been forgiven and therefore they were free to do as they pleased. Paul described it as “The all things are lawful” mindset, where they believed that they could do what they pleased because it was all forgiven.
 - f. But Paul understood that just because something is lawful doesn’t make it beneficial. Therefore he systematically made clear that just because one can do something doesn’t mean one should do something.
 - g. Not everything is beneficial. Even if it is acceptable, it is important to not be dominated by anything other than God. Most importantly, if one lives for the flesh, he will have nothing left in the end, because the flesh will be destroyed and it is the spirit that lives on until the final resurrection when we receive new bodies.
 - h. Therefore Paul called the Corinthians away from such living and commanded them to live for God. He called them to recognize that doing things just because they can is to live without discretion. Ultimately, it is to live without the wisdom of discernment. They needed to learn the difference between “can” and “should.”
 - i. There are many things that we can do- things that aren’t forbidden. Yet they aren’t beneficial. They might be things that for one person aren’t harmful, yet to another they are because of addictions, pride, idolatry, etc.. So why live for these things- things that will perish- when we can live for Christ?
2. Christians are members of Christ.

- a. Beyond just the daily living of doing things that weren't beneficial, there was also a lot of sin in their lives. The primary sin that seemed to dominate the church in Corinth was sexual sin. The problems surrounding sexual sin are a prominent theme in this letter.
 - b. Paul's primary concern are twofold:
 - i. Whoever unites with a prostitute sexually becomes one flesh with her.
 - ii. Whoever is united to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him.
 - iii. So as Christians we have been made members of Christ. Through sexual immorality we are combining a body of sin with the Spirit of Christ. So in effect, our acts of sexual immorality and impurity unite Christ to the sexually impure.
 - c. Thus why Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?" Note that this is a specific statement in regards to sexual sin. Paul isn't saying, "Don't smoke or eat twinkies." He is saying that we should treat our bodies with sexual purity because of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and the spiritual realities of what occur in sexual interaction.
 - d. When we consider that Greeks and other contemporary cultures had temple prostitution (where there would be various sexual acts performed within the temple as a means of worship), it might help us understand all the more why we are called to be free from sexual sin since the Spirit resides in us like a temple.
 - e. What does this mean? It means that sexual sin affects more than just the two people taking part in it. It affects the entire body of Christ, the entire Church.
 - f. The only evidence we need of that truth is to see what sexual sin has done to the Church as a whole. Between the homosexuality issues within the Episcopal Church, the issues the Catholic Church has faced in recent years, and the endless number of Evangelical leaders who have been caught in sexual impropriety, the one thing that stands out is how it is the Christian Church as a whole that suffers because of these things.
3. Christians have been purchased by Christ.
- a. **1 Corinthians 6:20** For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.
 - b. This is why Paul wanted it to be clear that we are not our own. Christians have been purchased at a price- the Corinthian Christians and we alike.
 - c. We have been purchased with the righteousness and subsequent shedding of Christ's blood. It was a great price that has been paid so that the Christian can find forgiveness and become a child of God.
 - d. This is what Paul wanted the Corinthian Christians to bear in mind as they willingly sought out sin and extravagance, believing that Christ's blood actually justified such behavior.
 - e. As Paul also says to the Romans (Romans 6:1), "Should I sin more so that I can receive more of God's grace?" His response, "By no means! How

can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:2-4) Christians shouldn't take advantage of grace, sinning with the assumption that it is forgiven.

- f. Instead, Paul called the Corinthians, and likewise each of us as Christians, to live our lives with the great cost Christ paid at the forefront of our minds. We should live as those who are forgiven as opposed to abusing the forgiveness we have.
- g. Remember that you are not your own. You have been purchased at a great price and as a Christian, the Holy Spirit dwells within you. You are now a temple of the Holy Spirit, so care for your body as you would care for a great cathedral, and in so doing, the beauty and glory of God will radiate from you and draw others to find the forgiveness that each of us has in Christ.