

1 Corinthians 6:9-20

Measuring our Actions Through the Lens of Christ's Life

Paul addresses a doctrine in the church (Christian Freedom) that had been twisted to teach the Corinthian believers that their faith allowed them to indulge in the very sin Christ had freed them from.

Vs. 9-11 The Unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God

Who are the Unrighteous:

- The Sexually Immoral (Pornei-gk)
 - Idolaters
 - Adulterers
 - Men (those) who practice homosexuality

This entire section or group of sins covers any type of sexual sin: Those who watch the sin take place, those who are sexually active in pre-marital or extramarital heterosexual relationships, and those who engage in homosexual activities are all described as sexually immoral and none will inherit the Kingdom of God.

- Thieves
- Greedy
- Drunkards
- Revilers (Those who are abusive)
- Swindlers

All of these lifestyles are chosen and addictive walks of life that prey on the innocent for selfish gain or pleasure.

Paul emphasizes that no one who practices a lifestyle like this will inherit the Kingdom of God. He reminds the Corinthians that many in their church body actively pursued these manners of life.

Vs. 11 "But"

This word echoes the "but" in Ephesians 2:4 that states "But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses made us alive together with Christ."

But you were

- Washed
- Sanctified
- Justified

All three are necessary parts of Salvation done to pull sinners out of their sin and into a relationship with Christ. All three are done through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

Vs. 12-14 Paul's address of the false teaching in the church "All things are lawful for me"

If understood in the context of legalism this is true. Christians no longer have to worry about earning salvation through obedience to the law

The Corinthian people were twisting this doctrine of salvation by Grace as an excuse to return to their previous lifestyles

Paul's response to "All things are lawful for me"

Not all things are helpful

In the Greek – "All things are lawful but I will not let anything become law over me"

The Corinthian Argument

"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"

In other words: If God creates something (sex), Our bodies desire it, and we like it, how could it be bad.

Paul's Counter to this argument

This argument might apply to food, but what you eat is a temporary matter, the sin you allow in your life is not.

Your stomach is designed for food, but your body is not designed for sex. To say so is to undervalue your body.

Your body is eternal, in the same way God resurrected Christ's body, He will resurrect yours.

Vs. 15-20 Paul gives application to his argument

Your sin does not just affect yourself. Why would you connect yourself – not just physically but mentally and spiritually as well – to someone who you are not in a covenant relationship with?

Flee from sexual morality: Because it is more than just a personal sin against yourself

Your body is designed to be a temple for the Holy Spirit, not a slave to sex.

Conclusion

The Corinthians were right in saying that all things were lawful for them. Christ's sacrifice on the cross did away with the law; salvation is no longer gained on the basis of obedience. The problem with the Corinthians is that they simply threw out the law and thought they could live their lives in a state of anarchy. They missed the point that Christ's actions on the cross should now serve as a lens to measure actions in place of the law.