

### *Attitude vs. Appetite*

Sin is a trap. It lures you in and entices you, but then it dominates you. Sin enslaves you, but God did not save the Christian only to be trapped in sin.

In 1st Corinthians 6, Paul gives us an example of sinful behavior that is a trap. Satan is constantly trying to catch Christians with it, and that sinful behavior is sexual immorality.

Have you entered into the realm of sexual immorality and now you find yourself trapped? Are you asking the question today, “how do you get out?”

#### **A GODWARD ATTITUDE WILL GIVE A CHRISTIAN CONTROL OVER HIS/HER NATURAL APPETITES.**

What does a Godward attitude look like?

A Christian with a Godward attitude will ask 7 questions before engaging in any given activity.

#### **Question #1 - Will this help me in my walk with God? 6:12**

Contrary to the world of religion, Biblical Christianity is a champion of liberty/freedom in Christ, but there is a caveat to freedom. Paul wrote, “all things are lawful, but not all things are helpful.”

We all have appetites. We have preferences. We have likes and dislikes, but how can we make sure those things don't pull us away from God? Ask ourselves the question: will this help me in my Christian walk?

#### **Question #2 - Does this have the potential to control me? 6:12**

There are things that may be neutral in the eyes of God, but does it have the potential to dominate you?

Paul warned the Corinthians, and he warns us: there are things out there in the world that we have the liberty to enjoy. It's okay in the eyes of God, but don't be fooled, those things can also dominate you. They can consume you, and you can become obsessed over things that really won't matter the moment you die.

#### **Question #3 - Does God view this as spiritually significant? 6:13-14**

In the world of religion, there are different teachings out there that say, what you eat has a spiritual significance to it. If you eat the wrong foods, you are sinning against God, and God is not happy with you. But Jesus taught that in the day in which we live, that is not the case. He said it's not what goes into your body that defiles you (Mark 7:18-19). Food serves a physical purpose for your physical body. Food does not impact a person spiritually. If you are hungry, as a Christian, you have liberty to eat whatever food.

Now while food has no spiritual affect on a person, sexual behavior does. If you have a sexual appetite, your body has not been designed to satisfy that appetite however you'd like. He says very specifically, your body is not meant for sexual immorality.

There is a vast difference between how your stomach has an appetite for food, and how your body has an appetite for sex. One is physical only, but the other is not only physical, but spiritual as well. And how you handle your sexual appetite will absolutely affect your fellowship with God, either positively or negatively.

If you have an appetite, for anything, a good question to ask in turning your attitude Godward is: Does God view this as spiritually significant? And in regards to sex, the answer is yes.

**Question #4** - Is this fitting for a Christ-like one? 6:15

The Christian's physical body is connected spiritually to the spiritual body of Christ. The Church is the body of Christ - the body of believers in Christ. This is a picture used multiple times in the New Testament to describe the union that believers in Jesus have to Jesus. He is the head of the church, and we are His members. In a spiritual sense, individually, we make up His body. Our physical body is spiritually connected to Jesus Himself.

So then the question: Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? And what is his answer? NEVER! No way! Don't even think about it.

And if you're a Christian, the question to ask is: Is this fitting for a Christ-like one?

**Question #5** - Is this something the name of Jesus should be attached to? 6:16-17

When it comes to sex, God has declared that the two become one flesh. I think it's best described like this: If you take two pieces of duct tape and stick them together, they become stronger together. That's what marriage ought to look like. But if you sleep with someone you are not committed to in marriage, it's like taking two pieces of duct tape, sticking them together, but then trying to rip them apart. Both will become damaged, and both will leave a lasting impression.

The question to consider: If Jesus is always with me because I am a Christian, should I attach His name to something that does such damage to people?

**Question #6** - Has God warned me about this in His word? 6:18

Psalm 101:3 - *I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless.*

Job 31:1 - *I have made a covenant with my eyes, how then could I gaze at a virgin?*

Genesis 39:9 - *how then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?*

Has God warned us about this in His Word? You bet He has.

Proverbs 5:3 - *For the lips of a forbidden woman drip honey, and her speech is smoother than oil, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.*

The sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Sexual sin is a misuse of your own body. Sexual sin has great consequences. Serious damage can be done. Sex is more than physical, it involves a person's soul. It will affect you spiritually, emotionally, physically, and mentally. Your whole person is affected.

**Question #7** - Will this help or hurt my ability to glorify God? 6:19-20

Don't you realize? Jesus purchased you with His own blood shed on that cross for you. Upon faith in Jesus you have become a temple of God. God has made your body a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Your physical body is a place where God has purchased to live in. You don't belong to you. You belong to Christ. And what's the purpose of your body now that God has purchased you for Himself? To glorify Him with it.