

- I) V9-11 INTRO: Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God
Paul just stated **the unrighteous** will not inherit the kingdom of God
V9 Notice how he said **do not be deceived**
WHY WOULD HE WRITE THIS
- II) He needed to write this because the entire culture preached otherwise
God intended to produce a community that was different from the world
It was to be a people who were set apart to be salt, and light in a corrupt world
- III) Human nature is fallen, and because it is we are prone to reject what God requires
We call light, dark and dark light: sweet is sour, and sour is sweet
Mt 15:19 (Jesus said) out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
- IV) God intended His people to be known for what is good, not what is evil
Titus 2:14 tells us (Jesus) gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to **purify for Himself** a people that are His very own, eager **to do what is good**.
- V) Doing what is good is doing what God has declared to be good
By living according to the bible, we can live in a way that pleases Him
THE GREEKS REJECTED THIS
- VI) Their philosophers and influencers argued against living for God
They developed arguments that were intended to counter the gospel's promises
- VII) This is why Paul told them the unrighteous did not inherit the kingdom
V9 He said: do not be deceived: Do not yield to arguments that state differently
- VIII) Scripture exhorts us to be on guard against spiritual deception
Eph 5:3-6 But among you there must not be **even a hint** of sexual immorality, or of **any kind of impurity**, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be **obscenity**, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this **you can be sure**: No immoral, impure or greedy person -- such a man is an idolater -- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.
Gal 5:20-21 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that **those who live like this** will not inherit the kingdom of God.

- I) To avoid deception, we **honestly** search and obey God's Word
Jas 1:22 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
- II) **Spurgeon**: I remember a story of someone who told a minister that it was a wonderful thing to see so many people weeping. The minister replied, no, "I will tell you something **more amazing** still. What is more amazing is that **so many will forget what they wept about when they get outside the door.**"
- III) Paul just wrote that some of the Corinthians had been in various sins (V9-10)
He made it clear that none enter the kingdom **in that continuing condition**
V9a (makes it clear) the unrighteous **will not** inherit the kingdom of God
- IV) This is one of the reasons why God sent Jesus to planet earth: Redemption!
1 Pe 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit
- V) Some argue that because of grace, you can continue in willful sin
Is this something that scripture would teach? No
1 Pe 2:16 Live in freedom, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.
REALISTICALLY
- VI) The one who would argue that you can continue to sin does not understand grace
This is what Paul is dealing with in V12-20
- VII) Paul is dealing with fornication, but he begins by presenting a general rule
After establishing the rule, he then deals **specifically** with this particular sin
PAUL WRITES
- VIII) V12 *All* things are lawful for me but all things are not **helpful** All things are lawful
It is believed that this was a well known saying at the time of the writing
He repeats this saying in Ch 10:23
WHAT IS HE SAYING
- IX) All things are lawful but all things are not helpful
All things are lawful is another way of saying all things are allowed
This would begin with the concept of Christian liberty
- X) **Christian liberty** is not what a person **can do** but is what a person **may do**
LET'S DEVELOP THIS

I) **First:** We remember, we are saved by **God's grace**

Eph 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions --it is by grace you have been saved. (Eph. 2:8-9)

II) **Second:** By God's Grace we are able to please Him, doing **good works**

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

III) They were **saved** by grace and were free in Jesus: no longer under bondage
But like many today, they transformed grace into **permission** to continue in sin
They confused liberty with license and began to be lax in their moral behavior

IV) This is something that human nature and understanding is prone to
Misunderstanding freedom **from** sin and giving ourselves freedom **to** sin

V) Continuing to live a life **known by sin** is to demonstrate you aren't saved
1 Jn 1:6 If **we say** that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

VI) Jesus taught of this

Mt 7:26-27 everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and **does not do them**, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. **And great was its fall**

VII) Did Paul teach Christians to continue in sin? No, Paul taught otherwise

Ro 6:1-2 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

Gal 5:13 For, brethren, you have been called to liberty; **only do not use liberty for an opportunity for the flesh**, but by love **serve** one another.

1 Pe 2:16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; **live as servants of God.**

REMEMBER

VIII) We cannot legitimize our sinful habits by cheapening the grace of God
We were saved and set free from this kind of life

I) Ro 6:15-17 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey --whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

II) The Corinthians were saying All things are lawful for me

III) Quote: Other religions prescribed rules which men must keep if they would be saved. Food laws were especially common. The abstaining from all unlawful things was a necessary part of attaining salvation. Not so with Christianity. The believer will avoid evil and unhelpful things, but this does not earn his salvation. Salvation is all of grace. It depends on what God has done in Christ. The believer is not hedged around with a multitude of restrictions (in order to be saved): In this very large sense: All things are lawful for him.

IV) As a Christian, I can live my life in freedom and enjoy what blessings I can have
I am not restricted to eating certain foods, or keeping certain feasts

V) What helps me to decide what to do, or what not to do is very basic
I know that not all things are profitable, or **to my advantage**

PAUL NOW DEALS WITH A SPECIFIC SIN

VI) V12 But I will not be brought under **the power of any**
I refuse to be brought under the power of any perceived liberty
We are not to be mastered by our desires

VII) Anything that takes my peace and comfort in the Lord from me is avoided
Anything that causes a fellow believer to be stumbled, I will reject

VIII) God has given to us the ability to exercise **self-control**
Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is... **self-control**. Against such things there is no law.

Ro. 6:13-14 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.
For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

- I) Paul is dealing mainly with sexual sin, fornication a sin Corinth practiced
They considered sexual intimacy as simply a normal biological drive
This is still the majority opinion, even in our country
THEY HAD A SAYING
- II) V13 Food for the stomach and the stomach for foods
In this they were saying: **Sexual satisfaction** is just a natural appetite
QUESTION
- III) So what is wrong with expressing your **true self**?
What is wrong with enjoying the pleasure of physical intimacy?
So what if you aren't married, or married to someone else: what is the harm in it?
- IV) **Quote** No other sin a person commits has more destructiveness than sexual sin. It is has broken more marriages, shattered more homes, and caused more heartache than alcohol and drugs combined. It provokes lying, cheating, stealing, killing, bitterness, hatred, slander, gossip, and unforgiveness.
- V) Sexual sin is particularly wrong for so many reasons
It is **deceitful**, never delivering what it promises, in spite of what **songs** say
Me and Mrs. Jones, Let's Just Kiss and Say Good-bye (I guess what we done O was wrong...I got ties and so do you), That's How Much, Lyin' Eyes, the list goes on
It's **unstable** because nothing binds but lust: What happens when the flame dies?
It's **destructive**, always resulting **in loss**: family, friends, self-respect, health, or even material possessions
WHY IS FORNICATION SIN
- VI) **First**: The bible reveals **marriage** as a covenant and holy institution (Gen 2:24)
Mal 2:11 speaks of marriage as the Lord's holy institution which He loves
God created **marriage** for the expression of sexual intimacy
- VII) **Sexual purity** is seen as an important aspect of holiness
To live a moral life is to represent the God we worship: the One who is holy
1 Th 4:3-5 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body **in holiness and honor**, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles **who do not know God**
- VIII) By engaging in sexual intimacy prior to marriage, it distorts the beauty of intimacy
Sexual intimacy is the most expressive physical act of intimacy and commitment
To engage in it outside of marriage is to fail to honor its actual purpose

- I) **Second:** Intimacy is a gift from God with various puposes
Procreation, emotional unity and pleasure in marriage
Pr 5:18-19 Let your fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of your youth.
Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy you at all times;
and be you ravished always with her love.
- II) When intimacy is engaged in outside of marriage, it undermines its purpose
Marital intimacy is intended to please your mate, not just satisfy your urges
- III) It often lacks commitment, trust, faithfulness and can be lust and selfishness
It can lead to lying, jealousy, and the destruction of homes and families
- IV) It also undermines the reputation and effective witness of the church
This is why Paul is so adamant about this
- V) V13 And the stomach for foods but God will destroy both it and them
The relationship of food and the digestive tract is purely temporary
- VI) Because our bodies will perish, it is more important to prepare for eternity
As you age, the sexual desires take a different level of importance in your life
The body ages, but is to be used for the Lord's glory until you pass on
- VII) V15-17 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take
Our physical bodies are part of the Body of Christ
Ro 12:5 We, who are many, are *one body* in Christ
- VIII) When we engage in sexual sin we are involving Jesus in the act
By faith, we have been united with Christ
When we engage in unlawful sex, we are **intimately uniting** with her
THE ADMONITION
- IX) V18 Flee sexual immorality: The answer is to habitually flee this sin
Like Joseph fled the advances of the wife of Potiphar
- X) V18 Every sin that a man does is outside the body but he who commits sexual
Sex is to be reserved for a committed marriage
Misuse destroys at the deepest level
You carry in your body every relationship you have ever had

- I) V19-20 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
Paul's answer: You are God's dwelling place
God has given you His Spirit to strengthen you and to live holy lives
- II) In gratitude for your salvation, live for Christ