



Mason Stewart

“Does our matter truly matter?”

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Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Key Thought: Overlooking the value and significance of the physical body leads to deep spiritual brokenness, so value and care for the body as worship and witness to God.

Points to Consider:

- As quotation marks were not yet a convention when Paul was writing, modern interpreters must decide where to place them based on where Paul seems to be representing the opposing viewpoint of the Corinthians, instead of his own viewpoint. English translations vary, but several significant commentaries on 1 Corinthians agree with the quotation mark placement of the New English Translation (the NET).
- 13: Like the Corinthians, we tend to overlook the value and significance of the physical body— in part, because we tend to make a false separation between the spiritual and the physical, exalting the one while deprecating the other.
- Overlooking the value and significance of the physical body leads to various kinds of deep spiritual brokenness.
 - i. 15-18: **Sexual Immorality** devalues the body and abuses the unitive power that God has invested in sexual activity, a process of spiritual DE-formation.
 - ii. 13: **Addiction**— according to Gary Moon— often has a deep root in the pain of not feeling loved, which we seek to numb via certain behaviors.
 - iii. **Bodily Hatred/Idolatry** are both rooted in not truly embracing the God-given value of the body (looking to the oppressive appraisal of others).
- 13-14: Whereas the Corinthians believed that God had made the body disposable, Paul counters that God will save the body— so it MATTERS what we do with our matter!
- Value and care for the body, resting in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - i. 12: Do whatever “is beneficial” and avoid whatever is harmful.
 - ii. 19-20: Beware of bodily idolatry. → “Glorify” God (not yourself) with your body, which refers to a twofold desire to worship and witness to God.

Discussion Prompts:

- What lies or truths about the body do you need to renounce or embrace?
- Optional: (How have you abused/not cared for your body?)
- What care does your body need right now?
- How do you most need help from others?