

Run! Outline

1st Corinthians 6:12-20

I. Contrasting worlds.

A. The non-Christian—"My body My Choice"

1. Autonomy and libertarian.

B. The Christian—"Not my body" (6:20)

1. "I am not my own."

2. I was purchased by a price—the blood of Jesus Christ.

3. The Christian is a slave AND a freedman! (1 Corinthians 7:21-23)

ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE FREE PEOPLE...ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE SLAVES

II. The Corinthian church situation,

A. They understood they were justified in their sins, but did not understand their lives could no longer be lived like the pagans.

B. "All things are lawful for me." (6:12)

1. Greek ideology.

a. The "soul" of a person is divine.

b. The physical body of a person is evil.

c. The soul and the physical body are independent.

-- Result? Eat drink and be merry in extreme abundance!

ALL things are lawful.

2. Paul's response.

a. "*All things are lawful*" to the legalist, "*not all things are profitable*" to the libertarian.

b. "*I will not be mastered by anything.*"

3. Four facts about sin.

a. Sin takes you where you don't want to go.

b. Keeps you there longer than you want to stay.

- c. Sin destroys your defenses.
- d. You will be robbed of your treasure.

III. Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” (6:13-14).

- A. Justification to self-indulge: what one does to the body doesn't matter.
- B. God will do away with all the temporal (Romans 14:17)
 - 1. The body is “for the Lord”
 - 2. The physical body and soul *are* connected.
 - a. The body will be resurrected (6:14).
 - 3. The shed blood of Jesus pays for our redemption of both soul and body.

VI. What you do with/to your body is important.

- A. Your bodies are “members of Christ” (6:15).
 - 1. Sexual sin—*ANY sexual activity OUTSIDE of the lifetime covenantal marriage relationship between one woman and one man.*
 - 2. The Christian is in unity with Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The marriage union—(“became one flesh”—Gen. 2:24).
 - Sexual activity creates a bond/union between two people.
 - Union is like gluing oneself to another.
 - 3. A Christian “uniting” with a prostitute is unthinkable! *Me Ginoito! NEVER!*
 - a. A Christian involved with sexual sin drags Jesus into the act—The holy becoming one with the unholy (Verse 16.)

V. How are we to handle sexual temptation?

- A. We are not to resist sexual temptation—we are to RUN from it!
 - 1. Example—Joseph and Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:1-12).

“It has been proven that the person most likely to give in to sexual sin is the person who tries to resist sexual temptation.” – Kim Riddlebarger.

- B. The consequences of sexual sin is unlike any other sin (6:18)
 - 1. Guilt, shame, unknown internal damage, destroyed testimony in Christ.

VI. Our body.

- A. Is a temple—the Holy Spirit resides (6:19).
 - B. We are not autonomous beings! We are not our own!
- VII. The Christian is seen by Jesus as “a pure virgin” regardless of our sin!

Run! Pastoral Notes

1st Corinthians 6:12-20

Key verse: Flee sexual immorality. Every other sin that man commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral man sins against his own body.

The Bible is a profound amazing book...it covers all of life... we need to read *all* of it...embrace it and live it to partake of its precious promises... Peter expresses this so well in 2 Peter 1...

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 Through these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world on account of lust.

God's Word...the Bible... is essential for Godly living... every word of it... and we are committed to preach this word... *all of it* from this pulpit... even if it makes you uncomfortable.... This morning may be one of those times...

What we will be looking at this morning is God's truth every person needs to hear... but when they hear it, there may be something to consider... this morning we will be dealing with a mature topic... so parents... if you are concerned that your little ones are not ready to hear this... we have available both Children's Church for K through 2nd grade and Club 36 for 3rd grade to sixth grade.... Feel free to release them now if you so choose.

7th grade and above... maybe they should hear this...chances are the topic has already come up!...Everyone else...please turn with me to 1st Corinthians 6... and read along with me verses 12-20

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Is there *anything* in that passage that stands out to you?... anything that may go contrary to the culture we are living in?... do you think some might even find some of this a bit offensive... reading this even ten years ago would not have been as counter-cultural as it is this day.

If you were running for public office and read this in your campaign speech you would lose...you would be banished from public office... you would be considered archaic... narrow minded and crazy.

We are a "MY BODY MY CHOICE culture.... Or as Amnesty International has placed on their banner... "MY BODY MY RIGHTS" *MY RIGHTS!*... such glorious autonomy!... and this is the way the world rolls...

I can choose my gender IF I WANT TO...it's my body... I can choose to have sex with whatever I desire...it's MY body!... As a man I can dress up like a woman and society will praise me... praise my courage to exercise MY BODY MY CHOICE..... I can choose to not have children 9 months in my pregnancy... It's MY BODY.

And you know... If you ARE NOT a Christian.... You might as well think that way... You might as well behave that way... it IS YOUR BODY...Eat drink and be merry... no limits! (as long as it's legal...actually, it really doesn't matter if it's illegal if you can get away with it...your destiny won't change ...unless you come to Christ... so enjoy your body

But God...through the apostle Paul doesn't give the Christian THAT liberty....He puts in front of us something that I'm afraid most Christians rarely think about for if they did their lives would be RADICALLY different... Paul reminds us... now this is for the Christian!... this is for the person who has claimed to have made Jesus Christ as Lord of their life....

Paul says...(19b) **YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN!** The NIV puts it like this... **YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN...ESV YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN** King James Version **AND YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN.**

Could anything be more counter-cultural than that?.... **For you were bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body.**

What was my price tag?..how much did I fetch?.... how much did someone pay for me?... we know the answer, right?... Jesus paid it all... Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

Christ shed His blood to redeem us from the things which destroy us...

Christians... We have been purchased!... sounds a bit like slavery doesn't it?... being bought?... look over just to the next chapter... chapter 7:21-23...this is great...

21 Were you called as a slave? Do not let it concern you. But if you are also able to become free, take advantage of that. 22 For the one who was called in the Lord as a slave, is the Lord's freed person; likewise the one who was called as free, is Christ's slave. **23 You were bought for a price; do not become slaves of people.**

Did you get that?... Paul says that if you are a physical slave [slaves to anything!...]... in Christ you are now free!... a freedman!.... and if you are a free person... you are now a slave!... a slave to Christ!

ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE FREE PEOPLE....ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE SLAVES!.... because we have been purchased by the blood shed on that cross by Jesus Christ... *slaves are just bought things... totally owned by their master...never free to leave... and by the way... slaves identified themselves as the most reviled and worthless members of society.*

Do you think... that if we truly realized that we are not our own... that would radically change our lives... what we do... what we engage our minds and bodies with... the things we allow ourselves to be entertained by?...

This is where we needed to start... WE ARE NOT OUR OWN... WE'VE BEEN PURCHASED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS...so now we're ready to work our way through this passage...

The Corinthian church Paul is addressing has forgotten or never realized that once they became Christians... they were no longer their own... in fact... they were still intricately messing with the culture around them...

[Cor. Culture]

What Paul had been teaching the church was radical... the word "restraint" was not in the Greco Roman world... it was "anything goes"...when it came to sex... it was everywhere... and all things "were permissible"... homosexuality was rampant... prostitution... pornographic theater...multiple sexual encounters with whatever....

Adults having sexual relationships with children was completely accepted...listen to this... Cicero...writing just before the time of Christ sums up these times well:

However if there is anyone who thinks that youth should be forbidden affairs even with courtesans, he is doubtless eminently austere, but this view is contrary not only to the license of this age, but also to the custom and concession of our ancestors. FOR WHEN WAS THIS NOT A COMON PRACTICE? WHEN WAS IT BLAMED? WHEN WAS IT FORBIDDEN? WHEN, IN FACT, WAS IT THAT WHAT IS ALLOWED WAS NOT ALLOWED?

Answer... when Christianity came on the scene!

most people don't realize this... but it wasn't until Christianity came along that the idea of right and wrong, morality and immorality... proper and improper attitudes about sex, gender...the value of a woman... the value of the body became an issue in the conscience of people....so the apostle Paul... is bringing radical ideas to this church!!!

The Corinthian church seemed to understand how sinners were justified through the blood of Jesus... but they did not clearly understand the fact that Christians need to stop thinking and acting like the pagans once they came to faith in Jesus Christ.

So Paul uses the reality of the cross to press against a sinful Corinthian church... *If we are bought with a price... the blood of Jesus...you're no longer your own...we cannot do and think as we please... we belong to a risen Savior who has not only purchased us... but who will raise us bodily from the dead.*

There seems to have been a slogan in that early Corinthian church “*all things are lawful for me*”... That’s how the culture around them had been living... it was in their ideology and philosophy... “*All things are lawful for me*” was another way of saying “*there are no limits*”.

The Corinthian culture embraced different camps of thinking based on the concept that the body and the soul are separate entities... they are not related to each other... Greek Gnosticism, asceticism, epicureanism, stoicism...all embraced the idea that the soul of a person was basically good... ethically pure.... Even as far as believing the soul was *divine*.

The body on the other hand was evil... nothing good comes from one’s physical body... in fact... ALL sinful urges originated and were carried out through the body... not touching the soul.

Based on that faulty thinking... first century Greeks believed that the body should either completely be gratified and indulge in all urges.... Or... to suppress all urges altogether...either one, did not impact the state of one’s soul.... So bottom line... *the physical body didn’t really matter....*

So the Corinthian church is caught up in this way of thinking... some had no problem with the idea of engaging in any and everything the flesh desires... even past the limits of common sense...

And others in the church were living lives of abstinence of all the flesh desired... which was a shame because God has given us many wonderful things to enjoy... so Paul says:

Read verse 12

Now those words have been used in error for the last two thousand years!... how many times have you heard Christians say “**All things are lawful for me**”?... perhaps the most abused partial verse in all of scripture!

There’s is nothing I can’t do... because of God’s grace...no more law... because of what Jesus did for me on the cross.... There is nothing I can do to lose my salvation... Jesus loves me this I know so all things are lawful for me. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me... terrible biblical hermeneutics!

Paul is not saying there are no limitations in the Christian life... in the context of the Jewish Law... the Christian is free from legalism... so in that sense... the Christian can say “all things are lawful for me”...

He’s also addressing a culture that believes *all things are lawful*...so he puts it in that context...

Do you see what he’s doing?... he’s addressing the legalist that says I must not indulge in *anything*, that would be wrong... to the person that says Eat to excess... drink to excess... be merry to excess.... IT DOESN’T MATTER...

So he says **All things are lawful** to the legalist... **But not all things are profitable** to the libertarian... He's putting into proper perspective the tension between law and grace... then he says **but I will not be mastered by anything**.

Another way to look at that is *I will not be bound to anything... we are to be bound to Christ...* **We are prone to enslave ourselves even with good things!**... do you hear the resolve and determination in Paul's words?... I WILL NOT be mastered by anything.

I made a note of this a few years ago, I can't remember the source... but talking about sin... by the way that's what we are talking about... desires of the flesh that go in the face of God... Four facts about sin:

1. ***Sin takes you where you don't want to go***... We begin where we think we want to be but end up where we don't want to be... A night of passion turns into... a complicated mess
2. ***Keeps you there longer than you want to stay***.

Those are warnings to not entertain the idea of getting into something in the first place... *I can indulge I can handle it... nothing will control me*... Fact: We have not been set free in Christ to end up in a new bondage!... we lose our freedom!

The other two facts about sin are two results of sin:

3. ***Sin destroys your defenses***....
4. ***You will be robbed of your treasure***.

Sin destroys your defenses.... The Bible teaches that repeated sin "**sears**" **the conscience**... (1 Timothy 4:2)... meaning the conscience... that mechanism that tells you when you are doing something wrong... actually gets "cauterized" by repeated sinning.... Sin destroys your senses... [expound]

To cauterize is to seal off a wound or incision by burning it or freezing it, usually with a hot iron, electricity, or chemicals... repeated sin is like a hot iron set on one's conscience destroying it from the rest of the self...

And because of that...

You will be robbed of your treasure... your fellowship with God!... sin will not lose your salvation but it separates you from God.... ever feel distant from God?... when you get mastered by any sin... God is far away! ...and it was you who moved!

We seldom get into a sin thinking where we will end up.... And we never imagine we could become imprisoned by it!... **Not all things are profitable and I will NOT be mastered by anything!**.... we need to embrace those truths!

The next verse also probably referred to a slogan from the Corinthian pagan culture... (13) **Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food...** apparently the Corinthian church was using this slogan to justify their self-indulgences...

In that they believed the body and soul were separate... it didn't really matter what the body did... *"let's indulge ourselves...not only in eating whatever we want.... But lots and lots of all of it!"*

By the way... did I mention that the Corinthian culture out of all the cultures mentioned in the Bible is the closest to our own culture in morality, beliefs and values?... there is very little thought in our own culture over the relationship of our physical bodies to our souls... *"let's indulge ourselves...not only in eating whatever we want.... But lots and lots of all of it!"* is in our speak!

(13) Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food but God will do away with both of them!

Now this is where it gets real important... the apostle is now laying out his argument that the body and the soul are in fact related to each other... he begins by addressing the stomach and food... *food and the stomach will be done away with.....*

In fact ALL temporal things will be done away with when this present age gives way to the age to come... this is what Paul was getting at in Romans 14:17 **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit...**

Yes... our bodies will be done away with BUT... those *done away with* bodies will be raised and transformed on the day of Jesus Christ when God raises the dead with IMPERISHABLE bodies!...

Our bodies are not our own... they were made for God... owned by Jesus Christ... He bought them... what we do with our bodies affects our souls!... **The shed blood of Jesus Christ pays for the redemption of our souls...BUT ALSO the redemption of our bodies!**...that's why Paul ended the chapter with **therefore glorify God in your body.**

(13)...Yet, the body is not for sexual immorality...we'll get into this in a minute... but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body...

Read verse 14

We need to see the value of our bodies... God values our bodies... He created our bodies... the example here is that God loved His Son Jesus... and when Jesus died... He didn't rise up to heaven with only a soul... He *bodily* rose up to heaven.

Remember what Jesus said after the resurrection... while still on earth, prior to raising up to heaven?... Luke 24:39 He says to His disciples...**See My hands and my feet, that it is Myself. Touch me... and see.... For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as YOU SEE I HAVE[!!!]**

Even as Jesus was bodily raised from the dead, so too shall we be raised... two very important truths here... Paul took that slogan and turned it on its head.... **Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food.... And both end in destruction... the body is for the Lord and the Lord is for the body and the resurrection is the destiny of both of them!**

The resurrection of our bodies is the Christian hope... GOD WILL REDEEM ALL CREATION...including our bodily material existence...I have a note I scribbled sometime in the past next to verse 14 in my Bible that says *Our bodies are considered in the last days! Our bodies are eternal!*

What you do with/to your body is important!

THAT BEING REALITY... WHAT ABOUT THIS:

(15) **Do you not know...**this is the fourth time Paul has said this in chapter 6... **Do you know know** means... "YOU SHOULD KNOW THIS BY NOW"... it's kind of like the talk of my mother... *Dan, did you not hear what I told you?...Did you not hear what I said?*

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?...that ratchets things up a bit!... we need this ingrained in our minds!...realize this reality!... our bodies are members of Christ!... this reality SHOULD help you decide what you should and can do with your body!

This is now in the context of sexual sin... or sexual immoralities (14)... let's define that clearly... that would be **ANY sexual activity OUTSIDE of the lifetime covenantal marriage relationship between one woman and one man**. I put it all in there didn't I?

ANY SEXUAL ACTIVITY...ANY sexual activity OUTSIDE of ...one man and one woman who has entered a covenantal, exclusive, binding, lifetime, marriage commitment relationship....period....all other sexual activity is sin!

Why?... because that is what the Bible says!...

get this... not only will Jesus raise our bodies... we are NOW **united** to the risen Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!... just like you who are married are UNITED with your spouses...Something very special took place in that uniting.... All Christians are UNITED in Christ...our heavenly bridegroom.

The moment you became a Christian... the Holy Spirit took up residence in you... the result is that you are now united in Christ...we see this detailed out in 1st Corinthians 12:12 **For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are**

many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...

For those of you who are married... what united you to each other?... what bonded you to each other was AFTER you took your vows and you...became one flesh!...Adam and Eve became what?... ONE FLESH... Genesis 2:24 instructs man and woman to come together and become ONE FLESH... How does that happen?...when you are physically joined together.... sex with each other!... that's how serious sex is!... it forms a union between two people....

Something far greater than a handshake can produce!...or some certificate!...sexual activity creates a bond...a union between two people...It brings two together to be one.... it's not just for kicks... it's not just a recreational activity...it's not just a physically satisfying act... so any sexual act between two people create a bond between them...they become ONE.

Thomas Schriener says *There is a profound psycho-physical union in sexual consummation...it's something I don't think we can fully understand...*

(15) Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? MAY IT NEVER BE!...that's absolutely unthinkable! **Me Genoito! NEVER!**

A word about prostitutes here...the city of Corinth was filled with temple prostitutes... both male and female... it was more than just illicit pleasure being sought after.... By engaging in sexual relations with a temple prostitute was thought as being united to whatever deity/god the prostitute happened to represent.

So joining oneself to a temple prostitute was joining together with a "god"...

Read verse 16

You see... the two shall become one flesh is not limited to just married people!... whoever... whatever... has sex together becomes one flesh... that's the problem!

To "join" with a prostitute is the idea of gluing themselves with the prostitute...for a Christian who is united together with Christ, to have sex with a temple prostitute would be the holy linked to the unholy....**the holy becoming one flesh with the unholy!**

Richard Hays said it well.

Sexual intercourse cannot be understood merely as a momentary act that satisfies a transient natural urge. Instead, it creates a mysterious but real and enduring union between man and woman...the union of a member of the church [Christ's body] with a prostitute...creates a real bonding with her; therefore it creates an unholy bond between the Lord's members and the sinful world. The results is both defilement and confusion.

So any time you are involved with sex outside of marriage... **you are in affect dragging Jesus into that sexual activity**... If you are a Christian and you're involved in sexual sin...**DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU ARE DOING?**

Prostitution was a big one for the Corinthians... this passage is not limited to the sin connected to prostitution... this passage is regarding all sexual sin... back in verse 13 Paul said the body is not for **sexual immorality**...

The Greek word is "*porneia*"... sound familiar?... we get the word "pornography"... it is literally any sexually immoral act involving the body...It includes all forms of sexual immorality...it certainly includes even pornography... *well wait! Pornography isn't physically having sex with someone else!...*

Matthew 5:28-29

28 but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 Now if your right eye is causing you to sin, tear it out and throw it away from you; for it is better for you to lose one of the parts of your body, [a]than for your whole body to be thrown into [b]hell.

How are we to handle sexual immorality?... how are we to navigate through a culture obsessed with tearing down absolutely all moral standards especially our sexual values...How are we to live as Christians with an opposing world view blasting us in the face... a world view that is driven to distort the natural order of things...God's order... a culture that justifies their sinful practices by turning what is unnatural into the natural?

Read verse 17

This is where we want to live!... we want to be one spirit with the Lord!...To be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live with discernment... with the power to overcome...power over temptation...and also.... there we find everlasting life.

Now...don't run past verse 18 unless you're running to flee from sexual sin...this really is I think the main point:

Read verse 18

RUN! ... get this... what Paul did not say... He did not say to RESIST sexual immorality... He did not say to BE CAREFUL... He says RUN!...FLEE... Run for your life!... Remember Joseph's situation back in Genesis 39?

Read Genesis 39:1-12

My only counsel to Joseph was you took too long in your decision to run!... he should have run back in verse 7 when she said lie with me the first time!

There is no time to think when it comes to sexual temptation... it is time to react.... **RUN FROM IT!**... you run because out of all the sins... sexual temptation is most difficult to resist... so don't try!...**RUN!**

It has been proven that the person most likely to give in to sexual sin is the person who tries to resist sexual temptation. – Kim Riddlebarger.

Like I've said... I don't think we understand just how powerful sexual temptation is... Paul says it is unlike any other sin... **all other sin is outside the body... the sexually immoral man sins against his own body...**

God gave us sex to create a deep, unexplainable bond between our spouses... a powerful, so very powerful act designed and initiated by God Himself for a special purpose... and when we hijack that purpose and use it for something that goes against God's design... we can't handle the consequences!

Not only is the temptation great... but so are the consequences... guilt...shame...we don't even know the depth of internal damage done by sexual promiscuity...and most tragic...a destroyed testimony for Christ...and don't forget... sexual sin:

1. ***Will take you where you don't want to go***
2. ***It will keep you there longer than you want to stay.***
3. ***It will destroy your defenses....***
4. ***You will be robbed of your treasure.***

We have not been designed to process these kinds of damaging results... they are much deeper than we can deal with... the guilt associated with this sin works its way in so many areas of our lives...so destructive!...just take a look around at a world that has violated God's plan for human sexuality!

Run!

Read verse 19

In the Old Testament the temple was in Jerusalem...it signified the place where the Lord dwelt with His people...in the center of the temple past many other compartments was the "Most Holy Place... the Holies of Holies.

Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Hollies just once a year...The Day of Atonement... great care was taken to not defile the temple... one could not imagine the thought of defiling the temple with something "unholy".

Jesus Christ came and fulfilled what the temple was pointing to... that temple... build with hands was no longer God's residence... Acts 7:48 **the Most High does not dwell in houses made by human hands...**

Remember back in 1 Corinthians 3:16?...**do you not know you are a sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

We are not autonomous beings!... we are not our own! We belong to Him and we are indwelt with Him!

We must remember that this passage was attached to a previous passage... we should not forget what was said just before...

Read 6:9-11

Christian... you've been washed... sanctified and justified... through the cross of Jesus Christ God can and does forgive! ALL SIN... EVEN SEXUAL SIN!

If you trust in Jesus... He is preparing you to be His bride...

Just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church [a]in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. Ephesians 5:25-27

In the eyes of Jesus... we are all pure virgins!...we are clothed in His perfect righteousness and cleansed from all our sins...

It is when we realize who we are in Christ...spotless... that our attraction to the world's view of sexuality begins to diminish... and we begin to gain both strength and desire to RUN whenever Potiphar's wife bats her eyes in our direction!