

# CCLEB SERMON

## NOTES

SUNDAY JUNE 30, 2024  
1ST CORINTHIANS 6:9-20

PASTOR MILES DISSINGER

### BIBLICAL SEXUAL ETHICS: YOU ARE NOT WHO YOU USED TO BE



We will be in 1st Corinthians 6: 9-20 this morning.

As we have for the last couple weeks, we will continue with some difficult passages this morning as we work through Paul's letter to the Church in Corinth. As we proceed with the passage today, please remember that this is the Word of God and every passage is meant, not to condemn us, but to help us grow if we will allow the Spirit of Truth to speak to our hearts.

Ok...quick recap of last week to bring us up to today's scriptures.

Paul is a few hundred miles away, in Ephesus, and receives word that the Church in Corinth is a mess. Sin is popping up within the church itself, the members of the church are rebelling against each other and even looking to take their issues outside the church body and into the Roman court system. Sexual sin and general debauchery are working their way through the church.

Paul writes this first letter to the Corinthian Church to call out their sin and get them back on track. Much of what Paul addresses in chapters 5-7 concern sexual immorality in the church, and today's passages are no different.

Let's dive in...

1 Cor. 6: 9-10

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Right off the bat...Paul begins with a passage that jams a lot of people up.

Many people read these verses and see the words, "will not inherit the Kingdom of God" and

think, "OH NO...I'm in trouble. Let me look at this list and think really hard. Have I done any of these things? Have I lost my salvation?"

The quick answer is NO. We are failed and flawed people...we sin...and God knew this would be the case. If we didn't sin, God would not have needed to send His Son to die in our place. (thank you Jesus!) So the fact that we are sinners is not a surprise to God.

We are going to come back to this phrase, "will not inherit the Kingdom of God", in just a bit, but let's get some of this tough stuff out of the way right up front this morning. And when I say "tough stuff", I mean sexual sin that most people focus on from this list.

Paul is aware of the sin, including sexual sin, that is infiltrating the church in Corinth, and he makes a point to identify it and call it out as sin.

In his list of sins, Paul identifies adultery, male prostitution (and this refers directly to male prostitutes with other men. Although prostitution of any kind is sexual sin), and then he also lists homosexuality.

People will argue that the word "homosexuality" does not appear in the original text...and that would be true. But...the words Paul chooses make it clear that sexual relations with the same sex, of any kind, are sinful and against God's design.

I am not a scholar when it comes to the Greek language in which Paul was writing...but I think that David Guzik, in his commentary, breaks it down very nicely...

"Since this is such a clear condemnation of homosexuality, those who would like to justify the practice say Paul speaks of homosexual prostitution, not a "loving, caring homosexual relationship." But taken in context, there is no doubt God is speaking of homosexual acts of all kinds with the words malakoi (homosexuals, which literally refers to male prostitutes) and arsenokoitai (sodomites, a generic term for all homosexual practice)."

As I said...I'm not a scholar of the Greek language, here is what I found online concerning the definition of the word arsenokoitai...

Broken into its roots, it literally translates as "the ones (masc.) who lie/sleep with men"

## MALAKOI

(Greek origin)

- Refers to male prostitution

## ARSENOKOITAI

(Greek origin)

- Means sodomite and refers to general homosexual acts

So in other words...Paul covers all the bases here when he speaks about homosexuality. He uses one word, malakoi, to identify those who engage in homosexual prostitution, and then uses a completely different word, arsenokoitai, to identify those who practice general homosexuality.

He doesn't want to leave any room for interpretation. He knew that it had to be very clear.

The reason for this is because the ancient world was rampant with sexual immorality and it was especially so with same sex interaction.

14 of the first 15 Roman emperors were either homosexual or bisexual. It was a wide spread practice, especially among men in those days. So Paul wanted to make sure that the Church knew exactly where God stood on this issue.

Some will argue that Paul is only referring to an act of same sex prostitution, but when we examine the words he used, in the context in which he used them, I believe that argument falls flat.

Now...I want to stop there and go back and read these verses again...

1 Cor. 6: 9-10

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

I want to note that Paul also included several sins in this list that have absolutely nothing to do with sexual immorality. And I think that is extremely important to point out here.

Many people suffer from a condition called "sin bias"...meaning that they consider certain sins worse than other sins. I would venture to say that most times a person's bias leans toward putting a greater emphasis on sins that they themselves do not struggle with. It's important to note that God does not put different value on sin. There are not different tiers of sin in the eyes of God. Now...there are natural consequences that differ from sin to sin, but in the eyes of God, sin is sin is sin.

It is my opinion that the church has done a disservice to itself in our ability to minister to the gay community, or anyone struggling with any kind of sexual sin, because the church has, for years, placed a stronger emphasis on sexual sin than any other sin.

And I am not saying that sexual sin isn't something worth emphasizing...but Paul includes things like drunkenness, greed, those who are abusive, those who cheat people, those who steal, those who worship idols.

But for some reason, I have seen the Church pull out the sexual sin from that list and focus ONLY on it.

Here's the truth...ALL SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES. Some of those consequences are physical. If you consume drugs and alcohol for a long period of time, there are side effects in your body that will harm or kill you.

If you become known as a cheat and a liar, you can expect to live a very lonely life where no one trusts you or wants to be around you.

Sexual immorality can and will destroy marriages and families.

Likewise...ALL SIN will cause you to miss out on blessings that God has for you. That's just the way it works.

When you are living in sin, whatever sin it may be, you will miss out on blessings that God wants to shower on you. You will miss out on God's goodness toward you because you are not living rightly.

The consequences of individual sin may be different from sin to sin, and there are certainly strong consequences for sexual sin...which we will explore as we continue this morning.

But what I am getting at is this...SIN IS SIN IN THE EYES OF GOD.

The Church fails when it excuses sexual sin of any kind, including homosexuality. But the Church also fails when it acts like God sets sexual sin aside in a category of its own and considers it to be far worse than other sins. Like other sins can be forgiven...but not that...

We do not condone, and should not condone ANY sin...including sexual sin, but how can we show someone the love of Christ if they already feel condemned by the church?

Jesus caught all kinds of flak for sitting with sinners...for dining with them...even talking to them. But He did it anyway. He loved on them so that He could share the truth with them. The TRUTH will set you free. But how can someone be set free if they aren't even willing to listen to the Truth because they feel condemned by the very people trying to share it with them?

Let me say this before we move on...if you are here this morning, or you are listening online or on the radio...and you are struggling with sexual sin...whether it be homosexuality, lust, pornography...you are in the right place.

Jesus loves you and we love you and we want you to feel welcome here.

I had a t shirt that said this...and I believe this with all my heart... "The Church is not a museum for saints, it is a hospital for sinners". And we are ALL sinners.

Ok...let's look at this phrase that Paul uses twice in these two verses... "will not inherit the Kingdom of God".

As I said earlier, many people read these verses and immediately begin to question whether they are going to heaven or not. They may begin to question their salvation in Christ.

Let's look at these passages one more time...

1 Cor. 6: 9-10

Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

Paul says "those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God". Then he gives a list of sins...and then he repeats that "none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God.

So...it's important that we know what Paul is actually saying here. Paul IS NOT saying that if you have committed any of these sins, that you are not going to heaven, or that you have lost your salvation. He is not saying that at all.

Paul is talking about unrepentant sin in the life of a person. The type of ongoing, unrepentant sin that defines you. It becomes who you are.

The difference between the life of a believer and the life of a non-believer is not that a believer stops sinning. The difference is that once we give our life to Christ and begin to grow in Him...we are a new person.

The bible says that we take off the old man, and put on the new.

A follower of Christ will still sin...we will never be perfect...but we will struggle and fight against our sin. We will repent of it and hate it and turn from it. And as we mature in our faith, we will begin to overcome the sin in our lives more and more.

The New Testament Scholar Dr. Kenneth Wuest said this...

"To be saved from sin, a man must at the same time own it and disown it"

In other words...to accept Christ as your savior is to fully admit that you are indeed a broken sinner in need of a savior. You have to own up to that and acknowledge it. And then you have to disown that sin and strive to run from it for the rest of your life, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit for conviction and direction.

So when Paul says, "none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God", he is not referring to anyone who commits a sin...we are all sinners and will remain so until the day God calls us home. He is referring to those who live an ongoing and unrepentant sinful lifestyle.

When you come to know God...truly know Him and seek his direction and learn His Word, these sins in your life should begin to cause you pause and examine and fight against, and eventually turn away.

I do want to point out before we move on that there are many people who interpret Paul's words, "will not inherit the Kingdom of God" to mean the "Kingdom now". And this is a very valid interpretation as well.

Meaning, the sin in your life will cause you to miss out on the immediate Kingdom blessings that God has for you here and now.

Blessings like unity, spiritual growth, the power that we receive from God through the Holy Spirit, and especially the blessing of fellowship within the body of Christ itself.

So whether you interpret Paul's words to mean ongoing, unrepentant sin, or missing out on Kingdom Now blessings...and really it can be both...neither of them mean that if you commit any of these sins, that you will not get to heaven. That's important to understand this morning.

I want to repeat again that we will never be perfect! But I believe that the struggle against sin in one's life is a defining characteristic of a follower of Christ.

You keep fighting against the sinful desire of the flesh, and keep striving, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to recognize and overcome that sinful nature. You are a new creation in Christ...the old is gone, and the new has come!

And this is exactly what Paul continues with in verse 11.

1 Cor. 6:11

Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

So chapter 6 of 1st Corinthians begins with a warning in verses 9 and 10, and then Paul shifts in verse 11 to remind the church about the Good News. He reminds them that in Christ, they are a new creation. They are no longer who they used to be, so they should stop acting like the people they used to be!

Paul identifies that some of those he is writing to use to indulge in the very sins he mentioned...and probably more. But he then reminds them that they have been cleansed. They have been made holy and they have been made right with God.

And how did that happen? It happened when they called on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It happened when they received the Holy Spirit and the power to overcome sin through the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at Ephesians 4: 22-24

throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

Paul gave this list of sins and the reminder of the old life that they used to live...and then immediately reminded them of who they are now. And we need that reminder too...every day.

We are not who we used to be. And if and when we fall backwards, we pick ourselves up, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, and we get back on the right path. If you have given your life to Christ...then these verses are the goal as you fight against the desires of the flesh. And there is nothing you can do to perfect your flesh...it is corrupt and will always be that way.

But we must allow the Spirit to renew our thoughts and attitudes. When we invite Christ into our lives, we should begin looking at sin differently...through a different lens...and we should begin to recognize it, repent from it, and turn the other way. And I love that Paul put that reminder in there for the brothers and sisters that he loved in Corinth...and for us!

Let's move on and look at the next passage...verses 12-14

1 Cor. 6: 12-14

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you. And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. 13 You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 14 And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.

Paul uses two phrases here in these verses that were actually slogans used by the people of Corinth. The people would use these slogans to defend their deplorable behavior.

The people would say, "I am allowed to do anything". To which Paul then adds a tagline to the slogan saying, "but not everything is good for you". He adds a second tag line saying, "I must not become a slave to anything".

The audience Paul was writing to would have immediately recognized these catch phrases or slogans, and Paul masterfully uses them to make the point that just because you have the freedom to do something, doesn't mean that God approves.

In this country, we are blessed to have many freedoms that others around the world may not have. We are coming up on the 4 th of July this week which is always a reminder that we are a country defined by freedom, and I love that.

But...Just because we are free to do something legally, doesn't mean that we, as followers of Christ, should engage in that activity.

\*Gambling is legal in most places in this country, but gambling is very poor stewardship of the resources that God provides. It can lead to addiction and can destroy families and lives. They call it gambling for a reason, and if you won more times than you lost, there would be no casinos left.

\*Certain drugs are being legalized in this country, and alcohol has been legal since the birth of this country. But the Bible says in Ephesians chapter 5, "do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery." Just because these things may not be against the law, as Christians, we should avoid destroying our bodies with these things.

The bible also speaks multiple times about the fact that we are to have self-control, so we should be wary of doing anything that takes away our self-control.

Paul says we are not to become a slave to anything. And I think he adds this second tag line because he knows that the farther we go down a path in which we are not meant to travel,

the more and more involved we get with an activity which is not good for us...the farther we move from God.

And the farther we move from God, the more likely we will become attached to whatever

behavior or activity we are engaging in. We can very quickly become addicted to something which God never intended for us to be around in the first place.

So how do we know the limits? How do we know when something crosses the line into an area we should not go as disciples of Christ? Our love for God and His Word becomes our guide. It becomes our boundary and our restrainer.

We allow the Holy Spirit to tug on our heart and let us know that we are heading in a direction we are not meant to go it.

We must know the Word of God so we can lean on it as we make decisions. "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path".

The closer our walk with God, the farther away from those things we will travel. The temptations will become less and less as our relationship with the Lord gets stronger.

It's like taking the bypass on the highway. If the city is the situation or the activity that God wants us to avoid, then the bypass that goes around the city is the Holy Spirit leading us and guiding us away from and around that situation so we don't get ensnared.

And the problem with our world today is that society often puts shiny billboards up over the exit signs for the bypass. So those who are not paying attention miss the bypass altogether and before they know it, they are stuck in the traffic jam of the world and all the evil life can throw at them.

Look for the bypasses and take them when God directs!

The second slogan that Paul references in verse 13 is, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food".

And Paul admits that this is a completely accurate statement. But the Corinthians were most likely using this slogan as justification to give the body whatever it wanted at any given time.

If the body was hungry, they ate food. And if the body wanted sexual gratification, they would seek that out at whatever cost necessary, including prostitution.

But Paul makes the distinction in Verse 13...You say, "Food was made for the stomach, and the stomach for food." (This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them.) But you can't say that our bodies were made for sexual immorality.

Yes, the stomach was made to eat and provide nourishment and strength to the body...but the body was not made to be used to fulfill unholy sexual impulses.

In fact...going against God's design for sexual purity brings about all kinds of negative consequences including low self-esteem and low self-worth, unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. These were never in God's original plan for us.

So Paul makes it clear that these two subjects are not the same. They are not equal and cannot be compared.

Paul then reminds them what their bodies were made for...

1 Cor. 6: 13-14

They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. 14 And God will raise us from the dead by his power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead.

Their bodies...and our bodies...were made for the Lord. And God cares not only about our eternal lives, having saved us from an eternity in hell...He also cares about our earthly bodies.

God knows what sexual sin can and will do to our earthly bodies. And since God will raise us up from the dead, we should do our best to take care of our earthly bodies to honor the Lord who saved us.

Paul then dives deeper into why sexual sin is so damaging to the believer...

1 Cor. 6: 15-17

Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which is part of Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! 16 And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." [a] 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

That first sentence should give us serious motivation to avoid sexual sin. Paul writes to the believers in Corinth as if they didn't even realize that their bodies are actually a part of Christ. Paul says, "Don't you realize what you are doing when you commit these acts?" And perhaps they didn't realize what they were doing, so Paul wanted to leave no doubt in his letter.

If their bodies...if OUR bodies are parts of Christ, then when we indulge in sexual immorality of any kind, we are disgracing Christ in the eyes of those around us. These acts of sexual immorality are of the world, and we do not belong to this world, we belong to Christ. So we should not resemble the world. Paul wanted his brothers and sisters to know beyond a shadow of a doubt what it meant when they engaged in these activities. And now more than ever, because of the world we live in today, we need to be aware of this as well.

Let's look at what Paul wrote Romans 12: 1...

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

We were created BY God to bring honor and glory TO God, and one of the ways we do that is to keep our bodies clean and holy FOR God.

Paul is saying to the church in Corinth... "if you are committing these acts of sexual immorality, then you are not keeping your body clean and holy and you are not honoring God as you should."

And the very same thing applies to us today.

Paul goes on in the next verse as if they are again, not aware of the wrong they are doing...

1 Cor. 6: 16-17

16 And don't you realize that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." [a] 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Paul references Genesis 2: 24 here which says...

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

When two people engage in sexual relations, the bible is clear...they become one flesh. I know we have all probably heard that before, but think about what that means. When two people are married and consummate the marriage, they become one flesh. They are connected in a very meaningful and powerful way.

And God's design for you is to have that one person, that God has already chosen for you, to become one flesh with. That is God's perfect design.

The term "casual sex" is used a lot in today's society, but in the biblical sense, there is no such thing. Sex is an important and sacred act that God gave us and is not to be taken lightly.

But when someone engages in multiple sexual relationships, they are becoming one flesh with each partner. They are giving a piece of themselves to another person over and over again.



I don't know if there are any Lord Of The Rings fans here, but In The Lord Of The Rings, Bilbo Baggins says he feels like "butter scraped over too much bread". (Proud of myself for getting a LOTR quote in this teaching!)

And I can imagine that that is what happens to a person when they begin to engage in multiple sexual relationships, giving away more and more of themselves until they feel empty inside.

On the other hand, a pure and healthy sexual relationship under the umbrella of marriage fulfills a person.

The commentator Wiersbe explained it like this...

"Sex outside of marriage is like a man robbing a bank: he gets something, but it is not his and he will one day pay for it. Sex within marriage can be like a person putting money into a bank: there is safety, security, and he will collect dividends." (Wiersbe)

Paul says in verse 17... 17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Instead of spreading pieces of yourself all over the place, lock in on the Lord who will never leave you or forsake you. Save yourself for the Lord and the ONE partner that He has set aside for you. Protect your spirit so you can give yourself fully to God and His design for your life.

Paul continues in the last 3 verses in chapter 6 further explaining why sexual sin should be avoided...Let's look at verse 18...

1 Cor. 6: 18

Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body.

Paul is not by saying that we should fight hard against sexual sin, or stand up to sexual sin...NO! Paul says we should run like crazy away from sexual sin!

I think of Joseph running away from Potiphar's wife when she tried to seduce him. When we see a door opening for sexual sin to get into our lives, we need to slam that door and get out of the building like it's on fire!

When we read the words "sexual immorality" we must also remember that the Greek word that Paul is using is "porneia". It is where we get the word pornography from. This word covers a broad range of sexual sin, not just intercourse outside of marriage. We need to run from lust, from pornography, or from any sexual gratification outside of God's perfect design.

And why should we run?

Paul says that no other sin has the effect on your body like sexual immorality...because...it is a sin against your own body.

Think about this...Sexual sin has an effect on a person physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Sexual sin builds and the longer someone engages in sexual sin, the more and more they need to satisfy that urge.

It is even scientifically proven that pornography changes the way your brainwaves travel...very similar to the way heroin does. It changes you. It changes the way you think. We must RUN from sexual sin in every form in which you encounter it!

Paul ends chapter six with this last reminder in verses 19 and 20...

1 Cor. 6: 19-20

19 Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, 20 for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Think about the temple of the Lord as described in the book of 1st Kings. It was incredibly beautiful, uniquely wonderful and entirely sacred. It was comprised of cedar and gold and it was immaculate in every detail.

And here we have Paul saying that our own bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and was given to us by God. God living in us...our bodies a temple where He resides.

There were very strict rules for the operation of the temple that Solomon built for the Lord, and in our verses today, Paul has laid out rules for our temple unto the Lord.

We are to take care of our temple...thus honoring God in the process.

We call this building "God's house"...and more specifically, this sanctuary. We meet God here. We worship God here. And when we are here, we do our best to respect this place, take care of it, not trash it, and we treat it as a sacred place.

If we do that for this building, which in all reality is just wood and bricks and mortar and drywall...why do we not do it with our bodies which the bible clearly identifies as a place where God resides?

The "Church" is not a building...the "Church" is the Body of Christ...it's you and me. Where God truly resides is inside every believer. And Paul is reminding his brothers and sisters not to trash the temple of God by sinning with their own bodies.

Why? Because if we have given our lives to Christ, and the Holy Spirit is dwelling within us...then our bodies don't belong to us anymore. They belong to God. We have submitted ownership to the Lord and we should treat our bodies in the same way that we would treat any other sacred place of the Lord.

Paul closes by saying, "You must honor God with your body".

And we do that by living out the commands that God has given us through His Word. We do that by allowing our love for God to be the restrainer in our actions.

Charles Spurgeon hammered the point home with this quote...

"Your body was a willing horse when it was in the service of the devil, let it not be a sluggish hack now that it draws the chariot of Christ." (Spurgeon)

So how does today's lesson apply to us today?...

I want to point out 4 takeaways from today's verses.

### 1. Sin is sin in the eyes of God.

God does not look at sin in levels. Yes, there are different natural consequences for different sins, but in the eyes of God, sin is sin.

We need to be very careful when we find ourselves placing more emphasis on certain sins, or condemning those who commit certain sins more than other sins.

We may even find ourselves questioning someone's salvation because of a sin they struggle with, and that is a very dangerous place to be as a believer.

Quite often, we overlook the sin in our own life in order to condemn someone else. We all live in glass houses, so we should not be throwing rocks!

Remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 7:2 (NIV)...

For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

I want to challenge us all this morning to examine ourselves and see if we struggle with this...If we tend to condemn one sin more than another. And if we do...to ask God to soften that hard place in our hearts.

And at the same time, ask God to reveal very obviously, the sins that we continue to come back to time and time again, and ask for the power to overcome it.

### 2. We have freedom and free will, but that doesn't mean we are permitted to do whatever we want in the eyes of God.

Remember the Corinthian slogan... "I am allowed to do anything", and then remember Paul's tagline... "But not everything is good for you".

Just because we have the freedom to do something, doesn't mean we should do it. There are many, many things in this life that are legal, but should be avoided by Christians.

Listen to Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14 (NIV)...

Now all has been heard;

here is the conclusion of the matter:

Fear God and keep his commandments,

for this is the duty of all mankind.

14 For God will bring every deed into judgment,

including every hidden thing,

whether it is good or evil.

God is going to judge every deed, everything we do...the good and the bad. And using the excuse, "it was legal"...isn't going to hold any water when we are standing before our Creator.

The Word of God should be our guide as we walk through this life. The Love of God should be our restraint when we are deciding if any action is Godly or not.

Allow God and His Word to set the boundaries in your life, and then strive to remain within those boundaries.

### 3. Your body is a temple...and the temple should be kept clean!

Every so often...(not nearly often enough)...we take a day to do major cleaning in our house. We do more than just the surface cleaning and really deep clean. We pull everything out of the fridge and clean the shelves and drawers. We actually move furniture to vacuum up the dog hair that gets back there and piles up. We wipe down all the grubby hand prints from EVERY SINGLE corner of drywall in the entire house! (why do kids have to touch every corner of drywall in the house??)

Take the coming days and weeks to do a deep clean of your temple. Paul said that our bodies are a part of Christ...and we owe it to our Savior to keep our temple clean!

Where are the areas that you need to clean up? Are there piles of nastiness hidden behind the furniture in your temple? Move the furniture and expose the dirt and ask God to help you to clean it up.

Remember...if you have submitted your life to Christ, then you have given Him rule and reign over all that you have and all that you are...including your physical body.

Honor God with your body...and keep it clean.

### 4. Lastly...I want to remind all of us that we are not who we used to be!

I don't care who you used to be...when you accepted Christ into your heart...that old person died and a new person was born.

Look what Paul writes in Romans 6:6

For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, [a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

You no longer have to live as a slave to the sin that might have ensnared you before Christ.

You have the power and authority to overcome that sin in the name of Jesus Christ...so use that power and authority!

From our verses today...Paul gives a reminder to his brothers and sisters in Corinth...

1 Cor. 6: 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

If you have called on the name of Jesus, then you have been cleansed from the sins of your past. And you have been set aside, sanctified, made righteous in the eyes of God because you have put on the righteousness of Jesus.

Psalm 103: 12 is probably my favorite verse in the book of Psalm because for me, it makes it so very clear.

He has removed our sins as far from us  
as the east is from the west.

Does your life belong to Christ this morning? Have you put the old man to death and allowed God to resurrect the new man inside you?

The bible says that all who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Have you called on the name of Jesus? If you haven't, make today your day.

Let's pray...