

True Freedom"

¹² "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. ¹³ "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:1

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh

Romans 8:1-3

- Our Freedom is in Christ.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

Galatians 5:13-15

⁴in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who

live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:4-5

- Our freedom is from enslavers.
- Our bodies are members of Christ.
- Our bodies serve as a representation of our relationship with Jesus.
 - Our body represents our original design and purpose.
 - Our body is included in our sanctification process.
 - Sexual sin is not the result of overwhelming, uncontrollable physical desires. Sexual sin is the result of selfishness and pride.

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

- Our bodies are a living temple.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1-2

Five strategies for sexual purity

1. Remember God's proper design for sexuality. (Proverbs 5:18-20, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5)

²⁴Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Genesis 2:24-25

2. Remember that God's boundaries are for our benefit. (Romans 8:32)

¹¹For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor. No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly. ¹²O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Psalms 84:11-12

³For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;

1 Thessalonians 4:3

⁷For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. ⁸ Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.
1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

3. Remember that sexual immorality hardens our heart toward God.

¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

1 Peter 2:11

- The pursuits of the flesh will take center stage in our lives and our passions for self will override or at the very least side track our sanctification process.
4. Remember God's design for marriage serves as a living example of His love and commitment to His Church. (Ephesians 5:21-32)
5. Consider that Christ suffered for our purity. (Titus 2:14)

¹⁸knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot... ²⁴He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:24

You are made for more

- What have you learned this week about your identity in Jesus Christ and your calling in His church?

- What step(s) can you take this week to more effectively live into your identity?

