

PAUL'S FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS

LEARNING HOW TO BE A HEAVENLY CHURCH IN A GODLESS WORLD

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

To Tell The Truth

How To Be A Church That's Out Of This World

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Servant hood, Leadership, Discipleship

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

All things are lawful for me, but **all things** are not helpful. **All things** are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of **any**. :13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. :14 And God both raised up 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 harlot? Certainly not! :16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." :17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. :18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. :19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? :20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Paul, in a brilliant stroke of biblical truth coupled with divine sarcasm, challenges the California believers to get their faith where their actions are.

He is right in doing this. In the opening chapter, he reminds them of their great and lofty position in Christ...

1 Corinthians 1:2-3, 6:11

To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: :3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

How are we to act now that we're his dwelling place?

What should be the words coming out of our mouths?

Who lives in a temple anyway? (in you dwells the living God)

(Dear lost world, stop looking at people who say they are Christians but act otherwise. Their actions reveal who they really are)

The Greeks at Corinth were very Spiritual people. Their spirituality was a philosophy that was basically this: whatever is of this physical earth is physical and temporary. So then what someone does with his or her body has no real effect on who you really are. Your spiritual side is totally independent from your physical side and neither one effects the other.

Have you noticed how the “philosophy gods” of this world allow you to do whatever you want to do as long as it feels good to you?

The Corinthian Christians were just like that - they were headed for disastrous results

TO TELL THE TRUTH

WILL THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP

1.) What's your favorite thing to do?

v.12-14

1a.) My actions say that I'm a free man

12 All things are lawful for me, but **all things** are not helpful. **All things** are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of **any**.

Paul Answers a Tragically Common Question:

“Since I’m a Christian, why can’t I get drunk or smoke pot or eat all the time the way I want to. Why can’t I live my life the way I want to live it?”

Proverbs 23:21

The drunk and the overeater will come to poverty,
And a drowsy man will clothe himself in rags.

“I’ll live my life the way I want and when I die I’m going to heaven no matter what anyone says – *but is that true?*”

THE CHRISTIAN IS LIVING IN THE LAW OF LOVE.

Because there are things that can bring us into its grip. Love causes me to walk away from those things, not the law. It’s His love for me and my love for Him.

Romans 13:10

Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love *is* the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 8:2-4

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. :3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, :4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Is what I’m doing helping the cause of Christ?
Does it bring myself or anyone else into its control?

WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE THING TO DO?

1b.) My words say that I’m already taken

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods,

1c.) My intentions say that I’m looking ahead

14 And God both **raised up** the Lord and will also **raise us up by His power**.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ Is God's Greatest Triumph.

It's not that the Lord needs a project or a hobby. It's not that God seeks a challenge. It's that His greatest work is the redemption of lost humanity.

Please don't misunderstand me when I say –
Jesus Christ died for us As Savior

1 John 2:2

And He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.



propitiation ἱλασμο/β ἱλασμος, *hil-as-mos*; **atonement**

1 Timothy 2:3-6

For this *is* good and **acceptable** in the sight of God our Savior, :4 who (#1) desires all men to be saved and to (#2) come to the knowledge of the truth. :5 For *there is* one God and one **Mediator** between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, :6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, **to be testified in due time.** (*the right or proper*)

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

We then, as workers together *with Him* also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. :2 For He says: "*In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.*" Behold, now *is* the **accepted time**; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.

All of this means that right here, right now, is the accepted time for the atonement to be applied to you!!!

TO TELL THE TRUTH

WILL THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP

2.) Where do you like to spend your time?

v.15-17

2a.) Is it at the playground?

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 harlot? Certainly not!

Romans 6:11-16

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. :12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. :13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. :14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace. :15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! :16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey,

WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR TIME?

2b.) Is it in some religion?

16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh

2c.) Is it at the altar?

17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

The "entering in" of the Lord's House was something
But now you are that something

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his **cross**, (**ALTAR**) and follow Me.

An Altered Life

Please don't misunderstand me when I say –
Jesus Christ died for God as The Sacrifice.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. :18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, :19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself,

We needed a Savior – God required a Sacrifice

And Jesus Christ is that Answer.

All of this Means that - You and are to Acknowledge and Embrace our Inability to Save Ourselves and Rescue ourselves – *does that offend you, honestly?*

TO TELL THE TRUTH

WILL THE REAL CHRISTIAN PLEASE STAND UP

3.) How can we know if you're telling the truth?

v.18-20

3a.) How fast can you run?

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Samson vs. Joseph

Judges 13:24-25, 14:1-2

So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. **:25** And the Spirit of the LORD began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

14:1 Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. **:2** So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, "I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me

Genesis 39:7-9

And it came to pass after these things that his master's wife cast longing eyes on Joseph, and she said, "Lie with me." **:8** But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Look, my master does not know what *is* with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. **:9** *There is* no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you *are* his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

3b.) Do you have authority over you?

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit **who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

Dr. Alan Redpath

*“No man can have the grace of God while rejecting
the Government of God”*

Galatians 2:19-21

For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. :20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. :21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness *comes* through the law, then Christ died in vain.”

***There Must Be Adequate Evidence to Convict a Man.
Is There Adequate Evidence Find You Guilty of Being a Christ-Follower?***

Romans 8:1-2

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, :2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 12:5

so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Ephesians 2:13

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Philippians 3:3

For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

2 Timothy 3:12

Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Tangible Evidence

Acts 4:13

Now when the people saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

HOW CAN WE KNOW IF YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH?

3c.) Can you stand up?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore **glorify God in your body** and in your spirit, which are God's.

James 2:17-22

Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. **:18** But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. **:19** You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! **:20** But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? **:21** Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? **:22** Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

————— *End of Study* —————

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