

"NOT YOUR OWN"

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in you spirit, which are God's. I Cor. 6:19-20.

From verse 13b to the end of this chapter, Paul is emphasizing the truth that the human body is not designed for licentiousness, but it is to be devoted to the Lord. This passage is occupied with an argument against indulgence in licentiousness -- a sin and crime to which the Corinthians were particularly exposed. Not that members of that church would indulge in this vice, but it was certain that it was the sin to which they were particularly exposed, and that they were in the midst of a people who did practise and vindicate it. Paul uses six arguments against licentiousness: ---

1. The body of man was designed by its Maker to be devoted to Him, and should be consecrated to the purposes of a pure and holy life. 13b.
2. We are united to Christ. 15a.
3. It is abominable to take the members of Christ and subject them to pollution and sin. 15b.
4. It is a sin against the body. 18b.
It wastes the bodily energies; produces feebleness, weakness and disease; impairs the strength, enervates the mind, and shortens life.
5. The body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. 19a.
It should not be defiled and polluted by sin.
6. We are not our own. 19b.
We were purchased at a great price and therefore belong to God. We are obligated therefore to devote ourselves, as He directs, to the glory of His name, and not to the gratification of the flesh.

Inchastity is an extreme dishonor in either sex. It is an absolute desecration of God's true temple in the individual. Fornication is not to be combated, but fled, as by Joseph in Potiphar's house. This passage says, Have the habit of fleeing fornication without delay or parley. Our bodies are the sanctuaries -- the most holy place of God the very shrines for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God makes His home in us, not in temples made with hands. Our spirits dwell in our bodies, and the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirits.

I. A Personal Realization. (Truth or Certainty.)

"Ye are not your own."

1. Many think they are their own masters.
2. Many desire to be their own masters. This is natural.
3. Many act as if they were their own masters. Follow their own desires and go their own ways.
4. Unsaved are in bondage: --
(1) To the Law and its sentence of condemnation.

- (2) To sin and its cruel fetters.
- (3) To Satan and his wretched service.

Before conversion, the power of evil fosters the delusion of liberty, flattered pride, and fostered selfishness, all the while drawing tighter and tighter the chains of spiritual bondage.

Why are we not our own?

1. We did not create ourselves.
2. We have not sustained ourselves.
3. We cannot redeem ourselves.

Inferences:

1. We ought not to seek our own ends.
2. We are not at our own disposal.
Have no right to do what we please, but what Christ pleases. Ought to please our Master in everything.
3. We ought not to follow our own tastes, affections, and wills. Conversion is a surrender of will and life to Christ.
4. We ought not to look upon anything as our own.

A. This involves privilege.

- a. You are not your own provider.
Sheep are fed by their shepherd.
- b. You are not your own guide.
Ships are steered by their pilot.

B. This involves responsibility.

- a. We are not our own to injure. Neither body nor soul.
- b. We are not our own to waste. Neither in idleness, amusement or speculation.
- c. We are not our own to exercise caprice, and follow our own prejudices, depraved affections, wayward wills, or evil appetites.
- d. We are not our own to lend our service to another master.
- e. We are not our own to serve self.
Self is a dethroned tyrant.

II. A Positive Reason. (Transaction or Cause.)

"For ye were bought with a price."

If we were originally His property, why was it necessary for us to be purchased? We had become ruined debtors, enslaved captives, and guilty criminals. We had sold ourselves into slavery. We had committed sins, and thereby exposed ourselves to condemnation and wrath.

1. What were we redeemed from?
 - (1) The wrath of God.
 - (2) The vassalage of Satan.
 - a. His tempting power is restrained.
 - b. His accusing power is rebuked.
 - c. His tormenting power shall be abolished.
 - (3) The reigning and condemning power of sin.
 - (4) The curse of the law.
2. Who were the purchasers?

- (1) God the Father, Who gave His Son. John 3:16.
- (2) Christ the Son, Who gave Himself.
"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28.
The Son gave Himself; His happiness, riches, honor, glory, liberty, body, blood, soul, life, and all.

3. What Was the price paid? I Peter 1:18-19.

A person who has been bought belongs not to himself, but to the buyer. He cannot do therefore what he pleases, but what Christ wishes and the Spirit urges.

This is either a fact or not. "Ye are bought," or ye are unredeemed. If it is a fact, it will remain to you eternally the greatest of all facts. If true at all, it will never cease to be true, and it will never be outdone in importance by any other event. It should therefore operate powerfully upon us both now and ever.

We rejoice that we know we are God's, for thus: --

- a. We have a beloved owner.
 - b. We pursue an honored service.
 - c. We fill a blessed position.
- We are in Christ's keeping.

When a thing is bought it becomes wholly the property of the purchaser. He may keep it, direct it, or dispose of it.

III. A Persistent Responsibility. (Task or Command.)

"Therefore glorify God in your body."

1. Purchase. He purchased them with His Son's blood.
2. Possession. He has indwelt or occupied them by His Spirit.

A.A. Why Am I To Glorify God In My Body?

- a. Because He created it.
- b. Because He made it for Himself.
When you make a thing, you feel that you have the best right to it. He made us to glorify Him.
- c. Because He sustains it.
He does everything for me.
- d. Because He has redeemed it.
He bought it back and made it His own. Fact that bought it shows that God values man and wants man. We do not often buy what we do not want. He wants the worst of us to make us better. He redeemed us from sin -- its guilt, penalty, power, slavery, and love. Therefore, use body as His sanctuary to His glory, instead of dishonoring God, through unchaste passions and sensuous deeds.
- e. Because justice demands it.
- f. Because gratitude demands it.
You live now, but you were dead in sin. You have peace now, your sins have been forgiven. You have joy now. Guidance, Courage for trying ordeals. You have hope of glory with Christ forever.

B. How Am I To Glorify God In My Body?

- a. By thinking of God.
All human actions commence in the mind.
- b. By turning my thoughts into aspirations.
- c. By transforming my aspirations into actions.
 - (a) Praising Him.
"Who offereth praise glorifieth Me."
 - (b) Adoring His perfections.
 - (c) Declaring His perfections.
 - (d) Manifesting His perfections.
 - (e) Obeying Him.
Temperance, self-control, chastity, purity, self-denial, and service.
Eyes looking to and for the Master.
Ears listening to and heeding the Master.
Lips speaking true, useful, and helpful words.
Hands working for the Master. No right to use them in service of Satan.
Feet going only on errands for Him.
Christians should be devoted to God for He has purchased us with the blood of His Son and His Spirit dwells in our spirits.