

1 Corinthians 6 & 7a

In this second section of this chapter, Paul address sexual purity that is expected in Christ. Our bodies belong to the Lord and we honor the Lord through our bodies.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but not all things are profitable. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ Food is for the stomach and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. ¹⁴ Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? May it never be! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that the one who joins himself to a prostitute is one body *with her*? For He says, "THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." ¹⁷ But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. ¹⁸ Flee immorality. Every *other* sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.



The structure of these verses appear that Paul is answering arguments used to justify immoral behavior.

Argument #1

All things are lawful (12-13)

- Things may be lawful but that doesn't mean they are _____ (profitable) -12
- Things may be lawful, but I shouldn't be _____ by them—12

Argument #2

Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food (13)

- The body is not for _____ (13)
- The body is for the _____ (13)
- The body is the _____ of God (19)
- The body is to _____ God (20)

Paul's Two Fold Admonition:

Flee fornication (18)

Glorify God in your body (20)

In a sex saturated culture how can a disciple today keep himself pure?

Understand that God expects you to and you can

Titus 2:11-12; 2 Pet 3:10-12

Think pure (Phil 4:8; Mk 7:21)

Make no provisions for the flesh (Rom 13:14)

Draw serious boundaries and keep them

Be careful with your friendships with the opposite sex (Gen 39:9)

Make it your ambition to please the Lord (2 Cor 5:9)

The Two Part Aspect of Discipleship

1. You were _____ with a price (1 Jn 2:2; 1 Pet 1:18-19)

2. You are not your _____ (Lk 9:23)

This destroys the "It's my life and I can do whatever I want" ideology

Now concerning the things about which you wrote, it is good for a man not to touch a woman. ² But because of immoralities, each man is to have his own wife, and each woman is to have her own husband. ³ The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife, and likewise also the wife to her husband. ⁴ The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband *does*; and likewise also the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife *does*. ⁵ Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶ But this I say by way of concession, not of command. ⁷ Yet I wish that all men were even as I myself am. However, each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner, and another in that.

⁸ But I say to the unmarried and to widows that it is good for them if they remain even as I. ⁹ But if they do not have self-control, let them marry; for it is better to marry than to burn *with passion*.

¹⁰ But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband ¹¹ (but if she does leave, she must remain unmarried, or else be reconciled to her husband), and that the husband should not divorce his wife.

¹² But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an **unbeliever**, and she consents to live with him, he must not divorce her. ¹³ And a woman who has an **unbelieving** husband, and he consents to live with her, she must not send her husband away. ¹⁴ For the **unbelieving** husband is sanctified through his wife, and the **unbelieving** wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy. ¹⁵ Yet if the **unbelieving** one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such *cases*, but God has called us to peace. ¹⁶ For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?

Chapter 7, while still discussing sexuality, it begins a new section in Corinthians in which the apostle answers questions that they have sent to him.

- These sections are identified with, "Now concerning" (7:1; 8:1; 12:1; 16:1).
1. The expression "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (1) is placed in quotations in ESV, as if this is yet another statement from the Corinthians

Under the Law of Moses, Israel was not to marry outside of the nation.

- Ezra commanded the people to put away foreign wives and children (Ezra 10:3, 10-11, 44)
- What about Christians who were married to unbelievers? Are they unclean?
- Was celibacy a more holy state than marriage?

2. If you marry, you have not sinned (28)

Remarriage is not discussed in this chapter
Leave (10) & divorce (11) are the same word.

- The American concept of "separation" is not discussed here

The Christian is not to divorce (10, 12,13)

- If that happens, remaining unmarried or be reconciled are the only options (11)

Rather than the Christian becoming unclean by marrying a pagan, the pagan is sanctified and the children are holy (14)

The 'present distress' (26) qualifies much of Paul's statements

3. Abstinence in marriage is not a sign of holiness
4. If the unbeliever leaves (15), the Christian is not obligated, under bondage
 - this is not the same word as Rom 7:2
 - it means "slave"
 - the unbeliever left because of the faith of the Christian. What would bring the unbeliever back? Ending one's faith? You are not under bondage
 - Salvation is the theme (16)
- 1 Pet 3:1-3
 - Again, nothing said about remarriage