

## I Corinthians 6:12-20 –How Dare You Make Excuses for Sin

Intro: This passage of Scripture is probably misused and distorted more than any other verse in the Bible. This is not a passage about Christian Liberty. Paul is addressing a major problem of sexual sin in the church and does not mince words. Please note the “quote” marks around the statement that has become the benchmark of excuses for sin in the Christian’s life. “Everything is permissible for me.” This is not a Scriptural principle – it is a cop out for ungodly living and disobedience. The second excuse is embedded in the words “food for the stomach and the stomach for food.” Both of these excuses are condemned strongly by Paul.

### I. Excuses for Sexual Sin

- A. The ungodly world says, “Everything is permissible for me.” This is the equivalent of what is called ‘situation ethics’ in our modern world. Actions are right depending on the circumstances. What is wrong for you might be OK for me. Another popular saying was “try it, you’ll like it.” How often have you heard the excuse? “Everyone is doing it.”
- B. The ungodly world says, “Food for the stomach and the stomach food.” The ungodly world attempts to excuse its sin on the basis of what it calls “natural bodily functions.” They say, my body needs food and there is plenty of food to eat – therefore keep the body happy. They say, sex is a natural function of the body. We have strong natural desires – so keep the body happy with as much sex as you want.
- C. The problem lies with the attempt to separate the body from the soul and spirit. The world says, the two are not connected. In fact, the world’s view is that man is just an animal – there is no real spiritual element. There is an attempt to say that what the actions of the body have no bearing on the spiritual life. See I Thess. 5:23, where Paul links spirit, soul, and body in holiness at the coming of Christ.

### II. True Freedom

- A. Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (see 3:3-7)
- B. Galatians 5 declares that freedom is not to gratify the desires of the sinful nature, but by the Holy Spirit, to live in holiness.
- C. Romans 6:11-18 declares that we have been set free from sin and its slavery.

### III. Scriptural Principles for Godly Living

- A. Everything is not beneficial
- B. I will not be mastered by anything
- C. The body is meant for the Lord
- D. Your body is a member of Christ
- E. Unity with Christ makes me one in spirit with him

### IV. Final Admonitions

- A. Flee from sexual immorality
- B. Sexual sin is destructive – harming own body, harming marriage, harming family. See I Thess. 4:3-8 - It is God’s will that you should be sanctified, that you should avoid sexual immorality...control your body..... do not wrong your brother
- C. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit
  - i. You don’t belong to yourself any longer – you have been bought at a price
  - ii. Therefore honor God with your body
  - iii. Eph. 4:30 – don’t grieve the Holy Spirit
  - iv. Heb. 10:29-31 – don’t insult the Holy Spirit
  - v. I Thess. 5:19 – don’t quench the Holy Spirit