

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 (NASB)

***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.*

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!*

Do you not know : Verb: INDICATIVE, PERFECT, ACTIVE

Members of Christ

- The word **member** means **a limb or parts of the body**, not only the whole but our parts are in union with Christ.
- As we are **members** of Christ's body, so our bodies are members of Him.

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!

A Sexual relationship is not merely a physical act;

- It is a spiritual act also.
- It is an act that forms a union!
- Fornication is, therefore, the creation of a monstrosity—
- Christ united to a harlot.

When a Christian has sexual relations with a prostitute or someone other than their spouse, he or she takes what belongs to God and gives it to someone else. **This is stealing from God.**

Paul's revulsion at the thought of this comes through graphically in his characteristic *me genoito* (lit. "**May it not happen!**").

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."

- Paul urged his readers **not** to think of sexual intercourse as simply a physical linking of two people for the duration of their act.

A spiritual union takes place.

- It is the most intimate sharing that human beings experience.
- Sexual relations affect the inner unseen conditions of the individuals involved very deeply.
- This is what is in view in the reference to two people becoming "one flesh" in Genesis 2:24.

*¹⁷ But the one who **joins himself to the Lord** is **one spirit** with Him.*

- When it is a question of being **joined to the Lord** it is a **spiritual matter**.
- The thought is actually being joined to the Lord, the most intimate link possible, of the individual believer who is in a mortal body, with the Lord.
- It is an individual matter:

It is a personal bond entered into which is comparable to the marriage relation, and which results in spiritual oneness -- the individual is "one Spirit**" with the One to whom he is joined.**

It is truly a magnificent thought.

¹⁸“*Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*”

“Make this your immediate and continual practice.”

This is the action to be taken in the light of the teaching just presented.

- To steal is to commit a sin *by* the body.
- Gluttony and drunkenness hurt the body.
- To commit suicide is to commit a sin *upon* the body.
- But in fornication, one sins *against* the body.
- It violates the resident of the body (6:19).
- Fornication is more destructive to the sinner than other sins because the people who engage in it cannot undo their act.
- **Genesis 39:12**

*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?”*

God’s way to deliver us from what is **unworthy of Himself** is

- Not only by pointing out that it is wrong,
- But giving us an enlarged conception of what is in His own mind.

But the way of divine wisdom to deliver them from the most degrading character morally, was to call their attention to the holy and exalted character that attached to them.

- **Every one of them had a body which was a temple.**
- The Holy Spirit is truly indwelling each of these temples.
- He is the best gift God has given us thus far.

²⁰*For you have been **bought with a price**: **therefore**,
glorify God in your body.*

- Our bodies are the Lord's.
- The price has been paid for them.
- It is a great thing to see the immense value that God attaches even to our bodies.

The conclusion of the whole matter is introduced by the word *therefore*, which translates a unique word in Greek called the urgent inferential particle. We could translate the force of it by saying,

“It is therefore a matter of utmost urgency that you glorify God in your body.”