

The Corinthian Letters, Lesson 23, 1st Corinthians 6:9-11, Touchy Subject, Part 1

- ✓ We have arrived at the place where Paul deals with the topic of sex, sexuality, and marriage in 1st Corinthians. This is a subject about which believers have been a bit squeamish to address, all the while our world is not at all squeamish and we are falling prey to its false philosophies. Do we not have a voice on this subject?, if not we had better find one! Paul had a voice and he used it 1st Corinthians 6:9-10 (3 out of the 11 sins are sexual in nature); 1st Corinthians 6:12-20. Our Bibles are not at all squeamish on the subject of sex. The Bible addresses the subject directly and without euphemism. It handles it straightforwardly because that's the way the Bible deals with all subjects, but also because sexuality can be a very volatile thing. Gasoline is a very volatile substance but is great if used properly; but if it is not used properly it can cause disaster. Sex and sexuality are like gasoline, great if kept within the rules, but disastrous when the rules are not followed. God has rules for sex and if we don't follow them, we will get burned.

1. Rule #1: God is pro-sex

- ✓ That may come a shocker to some, but God is in favor of sex as a rule. Genesis 1:28; 31, He designed them for it and commands them to do it! The Song of Solomon is an entire book in the Bible dedicated to the celebration of the physical relationship between a man and his wife.

2. Rule #2: God created sex for marriage between a man and a woman only.

- ✓ While the Bible praises sex within marriage it condemns it everywhere else. Listen to the foreboding words of Solomon who on the one hand praised sex within marriage as the author of the Song of Solomon but condemns it outside of marriage, Proverbs 5:7-11; Proverbs 7:24-27. Sex misused and misapplied will destroy you physically, emotionally, and spiritually. The stats are overwhelming to that affect.

3. Let's hear what Paul has to say about the issue of immorality and sexual sin.

- ✓ He begins with an apparently common phrase used in the 1st Corinthian culture and was still being followed by some within the church; "All things are permissible for me." Their corrupted thinking was that body parts were designed for certain things and shouldn't be stopped from doing those things, 1st Corinthians 6:12-13. The Stomach was designed for food; it is natural and normal to be hungry and natural and normal to satisfy that hunger. Nevertheless, just filling the stomach shouldn't be the goal, instead, filling it with right things is what God created that hunger for. If you fill your stomach with wrong things, you will get sick or maybe even die. Food isn't the issue in this context, but sex sure is! They are extrapolating this argument to apply to sex. Their reasoning was: "since the body was designed to have sex and given an appetite for it, have at it!" God did design our bodies for many things including sex and gave us appetites to go along with that design, but the use of that design is stipulated by its Designer. Yes, our bodies are sexual, but they were never intended for sexual immorality. Ultimately, the body was created for God and to be His dwelling place. God's house is the human body, so be careful what you do with it! The primary purpose of the body is that it belongs to God and for Him. The primary purpose of the body is not to have its appetites fulfilled. 1st Corinthians 6:14, God puts such importance on our physical bodies that He's going to resurrect them. 1st Corinthians 6:15, a believer has a very privileged position: we belong to Christ and are members of His body. Whatever we involve ourselves in, we involve Christ in; He goes where we go. Any sex outside of marriage is immoral and God condemns it. 1st Corinthians 6:16 & 17, sex, and marriage are synonymous. Sex marries us in God's eyes and by God's design. Thus, sex is never casual, and is far more than physical in nature. Sex is as much a spiritual mystery as it is a physical fact, the two become one flesh, this is true with whomever you have sex. Can you see the problem and problems this brings into our lives? 1st Corinthians 6:18, immorality is a uniquely acute sin against your own body; it does damage the first time you indulge in it. No other sin against your body does this, not alcohol or drugs or overeating, they all require an accumulation over time to do damage to any extent. 1st Corinthians 6:19, immorality is tantamount to desecrating God's Temple. 1st Corinthians 6:20, immorality ignores the costliness of our redemption.