

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## **Convictions & Freedom**

### ***I Corinthians 6:11-20***

**Vs. 11-12** are an important transition  
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**Vs. 11-12**, And **such were some of you**. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. *“All things are lawful for me”*, but all things are not helpful. *“All things are lawful for me”*, but I will not be brought under the power of any.  
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Never forget **who you were** without Christ...

- Who you left in the Baptism grave
  - It keeps us humble & thankful
  - He took what we deserve & gave us what He deserves
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- .....

Paul is writing to them about the divisions among them...

- Now he's dealing with the How's & Why's
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- .....

Some are turning **freedom** into **licentiousness** (An intrusion of the heathen culture)

- They are dividing **from** God's righteousness **to self-justification**
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- .....

What is **our biggest problem** as people made in God's image for relationship with Him?

- Self-centeredness... *“You will be like God”*
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- .....

What's **our biggest provocation**?

- Our fleshly, selfish appetites
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- .....

They weren't separating **for God** (He doesn't do that to Himself)

- And they weren't doing it for their fellow believers  
*(They are devaluing them & the body of Christ)*
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- .....

They were doing it **for themselves**...

- Governed by their fleshly, selfish appetites  
*(exemplified here by food & sexual desires)*
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- .....

**Luke 8:14**, *“Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”*

  
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*Facing worldly, fleshly temptations is part of life in this fallen world*

  
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**Matthew 4:1-3**, Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. The tempter came to Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

  
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**Hebrews 4:15-16**, For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in **all points tempted as we are**, yet without sin. **Let us therefore** come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

  
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Why does God authorize our temptation?

- For us to stand on & know **our safety in His Word**
- To shame the enemy by it, **just as Jesus did**

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**I Corinthians 10:13**, No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but **with the temptation will also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.

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**Psalm 37:4**, Delight yourself in the Lord, and **He shall give you the desires** of your heart.

- **God's righteous desires** displace our *fleshly desires*

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**Matthew 5:6**, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."

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**Vs. 12**, "All things are lawful for me" (except sin), but all things are not helpful.

- Not helpful or beneficial, **not only for myself**

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**James 2:8-9**, If you really fulfill **the royal law** according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

- **The law of love** is not governed by self-gratification

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 "All things are lawful for me", but I will not be brought under the power of any.

- Just because we can, doesn't mean we **should**
- Freedom is both **freedom to**, and **freedom from**

What power will we surrender ourselves to?

- Our strongest pull is to cling to **the power of self will**. We got it from Adam.
- Will we relinquish ourselves to Christ's power? (**Heb. 4:14-16**)
- To His **Demonstrated power** over sin & death. (**Ch. 15**)

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**Vs. 13**, Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy (*do away with*) both it and them. (*What do foods speak of?*)

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*Fleshly human appetite that exist all on their own...*

- Without natural boundaries, definitions or limits.
- They dominate someone who abandons themselves to them.

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**Romans 14:14-23**,

- Doubt & Faith do not cohabitate any more than light & darkness
- For both ourselves, and for the benefit of others
- If we doubt God's approval... don't (without requiring it of anyone else)

.....  
 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy (do away with) both it and them.

- The corruption of our fleshly weakness inherited from Adam **will not exist** in His New Creation

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**Vs. 13**, Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

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*As with foods, so too with sexual desires...*

- Not only in a godless culture of worship with temple prostitutes

Why does Paul hang onto this like a dog with a bone?

- Not just because of sexually sinful Corinthian culture
- It's because it's the most direct violation of human godliness available. (**Ephesians 5:31-32**)

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It is the enemy's strongest allurement to sin

- It reduces sexual desires to people using each other for self-gratification
- Rather than the deepest completely safe & secure of human relationships (**Phil. 2:3-4**)

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**Vs. 13**, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

- In the true oneness God ordained for marriage (**Heb. 13:4**)
- Our body, **designed by & given to Him** for His purposes

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**Vs. 14**, And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

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Our body will be resurrected **when He returns in His resurrected body**

- In perfection... free of sin's temptation
- We live **IN the confidence of hope**... Looking forward to it
- "We're just passing through" on our way to our real destination!!

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**Vs. 15-16**, Do you not know that **your bodies are members of Christ**? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh."

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Would we make Christ a participant in sexual sin?

**Vs. 17**, But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- **John 17:20-23** includes Him in what we do with our bodies.

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**Vs. 18, Flee sexual immorality.** Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

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**RUN from! Escape!!** Like Joseph from Potiphar's wife!

- **Genesis 39:9**, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

.....  
Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality **sins against his own body.**

- Which is now a living, active, integrated member of Christ's body – (**I John 4:17**)

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**How we live** is who we demonstrate the church to be

- How we treat the church is **how we treat Him**
- What would we subject Him to?

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**Vs. 19**, Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

.....  
What sin would you commit **right here, right now** in this worship service?

- **Our body is God's temple** more than this building is.

.....  
Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, **and you are not your own?**

- That's really the question, isn't it?
- **Who have we surrendered title deed to?**

*None but God are adequate to govern His gift of life.*

- *What did the enemy tempt Eve with?*
- **God like ownership & authority**
- *It's still the first temptation to those created in God's image today*

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**Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, **whom you have from God**

- **Worship of God** is the ultimate abandonment of sin.