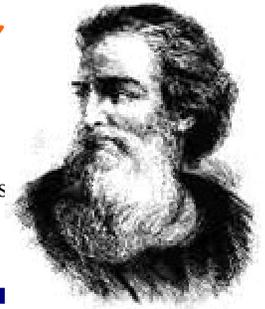


# The Writings of the Apostle Paul

## ***RUN AWAY FROM SEXUAL SIN!***

### **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:9-20**

Maranatha Sunday School Class & Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting at Grace Bible Church, Dallas, Texas  
John Rhoads Teacher / Lesson #13



### **Avoiding Sexual Sin**

<sup>9</sup> Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, <sup>10</sup> thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers—none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you.

<sup>12</sup> You may say, "I am allowed to do anything." But I reply, "Not everything is good for you." And even though "I am allowed to do anything," I must not become a slave to anything. <sup>13</sup> You say, "Food is for the stomach, and the stomach is for food." This is true, though someday God will do away with both of them. But our bodies were not made for sexual immorality. They were made for the Lord, and the Lord cares about our bodies. <sup>14</sup> And God will raise our bodies from the dead by his marvelous power, just as he raised our Lord from the dead. <sup>15</sup> Don't you realize that your bodies are actually parts of Christ? Should a man take his body, which belongs to Christ, and join it to a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> And don't you know that if a man joins himself to a prostitute, he becomes one body with her? For the Scriptures say, "The two are united into one." <sup>17</sup> But the person who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

<sup>18</sup> ***RUN AWAY FROM SEXUAL SIN!*** No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. <sup>19</sup> Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, <sup>20</sup> for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

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<sup>1</sup>Holy Bible : New Living Translation. 1997 (1 Co 6:1). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

## Three questions for believers looking for excuses to sin.

### A. ***“If we are saved, then we can sin and still go to heaven!”***

(vv. 9–11)

Certainly people who are truly born again will go to heaven in spite of their many failings; but the new birth brings a new nature, and a new nature means a new appetite. **The Christian still has the ability to sin, but not the desire. Any teaching that makes it easy to sin is not Bible doctrine.** “Be not deceived!” Paul listed the awful sins that once had ruled their lives, then reminded them of what Jesus had done for them. “Such were some of you! But you are washed . . . sanctified . . . justified!” The Christian is a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) and proves it by breaking with the old life. **We do not inherit the kingdom of God by refraining from sin, but we prove that we are going to heaven by the godly lives that we live.**

### B. ***“Don’t Christians have liberty? Aren’t we free from the Law?”*** (vv. 12–14)

Certainly we are free from rules and regulations, but we are not free to sin. **Christian liberty is never license.** Christian liberty does not mean I am free to do what I please, but that I have been freed to do what pleases Christ. Furthermore, “liberty to sin” is really the worst kind of slavery! We must not be brought under the power of sin (Rom. 6). “But,” you say, “if God gave us these physical appetites, certainly He wants us to use them.” That’s right: use them, but not abuse them. **Your body is the Lord’s; and if you live in sin, that sin will destroy you and God will someday judge you.**

### C. ***“Can I not use my body as I please?”*** (vv. 15–20)

**Of course not! To begin with, it is no longer your body; it belongs to Christ.** He purchased you with His own blood. Back in Paul’s day, a slave could set himself free by saving his money and depositing it with the priest at the local heathen temple. When he had enough money to purchase his freedom, he would take his master to the temple and the priest would give the master the money and declare that the slave now belonged to that particular god. Christ paid the price to set us free from sin, and we must use our bodies to please Him. Furthermore, when we sin against the body, we sin against Christ and the Holy Spirit who has made the body His temple. Gen. 2:24 states that two persons joined physically become “one flesh.” How can a Christian join his body—which is a member of Christ’s body—in such horrible sin? How can he defile the temple of the Spirit? **Christians are to glorify God with their bodies. This means the way we care for the body, the way we dress the body, the places we take the body, the deeds we do in the body. It is dangerous for Christians to use their bodies for sin.** Remember what happened to Samson and David!

***IN THESE LATTER DAYS, WE SEE A SHAMELESS INCREASE OF SEXUAL SINS. WE DARE NOT CLOSE OUR EYES TO IT.*** (See 2 Tim. 3:1–7, and note that v. 5 states that these sinners will be professing Christians, and not people of the world!)

**The attitude of the world is, “Everybody’s doing it, so why be different?” It is sad when Christians think they can violate God’s moral code and get away with it. Sexual sins are sins against Christ (who purchased our bodies), against the Spirit (who indwells our bodies), and against ourselves (v. 18).** Single people in particular need to read and ponder Prov. 5:1–23, 6:20–35, and 7:1–27. These are plain chapters, but they warn against sexual license. Married Christians need to read and ponder 1 Thes. 4:1–8, where God warns Christians in the church against breaking their wedding vows...<sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup>Wiersbe, W. W. (1997, c1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.



DANGER  
SIGNS



***RUN AWAY FROM SEXUAL SIN!***



One more question for our times:

## WHAT ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY?

Paul wrote that “homosexual offenders” will not “inherit the kingdom of God.” There are so many different opinions in our world today regarding homosexuality. Some believe that they can be Christian homosexuals. Some believe that homosexuality is an inborn trait, just like a person is born white or black. Some believe that homosexuality is merely an alternative lifestyle to be accepted. Some think homosexuals ought to be able to “get married,” “have kids,” and be treated as a “family.” So what should Bible-believing Christians think?

What Christians need to understand is that homosexual acts *are* sin—pure and simple. The Bible says so. Homosexuality is not a lifestyle, an inborn trait, or something to be treated as normal. Homosexual activity is sin. Yet it is not unforgivable. God loves homosexuals just as much as he loves other sinners. Jesus’ death on the cross paid for the sin of homosexuality, just as it paid for the sins of lying, greed, lust, hate, and pride. It has been said—and it is true—that the church is a hospital for sinners, not a showcase for saints. It is a place where those caught in homosexual behavior can be freed and forgiven. It is a place where believers who have committed the sins of hatred, prejudice, and self-righteousness toward homosexuals need to go to ask the Lord for forgiveness and healing. Homosexuals, like all sinners, stand guilty before God. Rather than spreading hatred, spread the word that there is hope for sinners of all kinds through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the one who sets people free, regardless of their sins.

Two final thoughts:

## ENJOY GOOD SEX!

Christians are free to be all they can be for God, but they are not free *from* God. God created sex to be a beautiful and essential ingredient of marriage, but sexual sin—sex outside the marriage relationship—*always* hurts someone. It hurts God because it shows that we prefer following our own desires to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It hurts others because it violates the commitment so necessary to a relationship. It often brings disease to the body. And it deeply affects our personalities, which respond in anguish when we harm ourselves physically and spiritually. Although Satan would have us believe the contrary, sex within God’s guidelines offers pleasure, satisfaction, fascination, intimacy, health, and wholeness. The best way *is* God’s way. He invented sex. We can express our gratefulness to God in prayer and by being faithful to his guidelines.

## BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT!

Paul would have a lot to be angry about in our permissive society. In a permissive society it is easy for Christians to overlook or tolerate some immoral behaviors (greed, drunkenness, gluttony, etc.) while remaining outraged at others (homosexuality, idolatry, thievery). We must not participate in sin or condone it in any way, nor may we be selective about what we condemn or excuse. Staying away from more “acceptable” forms of sin is difficult, but it is no more difficult for us than it was for the Corinthians. **God expects his followers in any age to have high standards. This is most clearly seen, not in the measuring stick we hold up against society, but in our humble commitment to pursue holiness and our transparency about God’s ongoing work of grace in our lives.**<sup>3</sup>

What  
makes us  
**DIFFERENT**

<sup>3</sup>Applications adapted from: Barton, B. B., & Osborne, G. R. (1999). *1 & 2 Corinthians*. Life application Bible commentary (Page 77). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.