

G O D & S E X



## **Sex & Your Body**

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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### **1 Corinthians 6:12-20**

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. Flee from sexual

immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

1. They believed sex was about rights and freedom.

“I have the right to do anything.” (v. 12)

“The Corinthian men who went to prostitutes were not asserting some new unheard-of freedom; they were merely insisting on their right to continue participating in a pleasurable activity that was entirely normal within their own culture.”

- Richard B. Hays, *Commentary on 1 Corinthians*

2. They believed sex was about appetite.

“Food for the stomach and stomach for food.” (v. 13)

3. They believed the body didn't really matter.

“God will destroy them both.” (v. 13)

“Hook up culture demands carelessness, rewards callousness, and punishes kindness. Both men and women are free to have sex but neither is entirely free to love.”

- Lisa Wade, *American Hookup*

### **Matthew 19:4-5**

“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will

leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"

Our bodies & our sex are teleological & theological.

"The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all."

- Karl Rahner

### **Genesis 1:26-27**

Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

### **Genesis 2:24**

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

### **Ephesians 5:32**

This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

### **Isaiah 62:5**

As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Maker marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

### **Ezekiel 16:7-8**

You grew and developed and entered puberty. Your breasts had formed and your hair had grown, yet you were stark naked. "Later I

passed by, and when I looked at you and saw that you were old enough for love, I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your naked body. I gave you my solemn oath and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Sovereign Lord, and you became mine.

The woman's body primarily tells the story of *receiving* divine love while the man's body primarily tells the story of *offering* that love, of pouring it out.

“The body is not seen as having any purpose or telos. It is merely a collection of physical systems—muscles, bones, organs, and cells—providing no clue to who we are or how we should live. Our physical traits give no signposts for the right way to deploy our sexuality. And if the meaning of our sexuality is not something we derive from the body, then it becomes something we impose on the body. It is a social construction.”

- Nancy Pearcey, *Love Thy Body*

“Underneath the pop and fizzle of sexological enthusiasm lies a fundamental despair — not necessarily about life itself, but about the body. This seems counterintuitive: surely, the sexual revolution is about the celebration of the body over and against the pretense that love ends below the neck. Yet beneath all the pageantry of free sex and self-love, there's a fundamental belief that the body doesn't mean anything, that it is insignificant in a literal sense: signifying nothing. You can do anything you like with it, you can pleasure it with a vacuum cleaner or get a drunken stranger in an alley way to whip it, and you can give it to anyone for any reason. It's just a sort

of wet machine, a tool that you can use an exchange for whatever purpose suits your fancy. In order to believe this, you must either except a) that your body is not you, it is just a shell, or a juicy robot, that the real you — that disembodied ghost — controls, or b) that there is no such thing as human value or dignity; it's just a nice pretense that we make because we are terrified of the senseless and nihilistic universe. Honestly, Christianity, which has always been accused of putting God before man stands alone against a host of modern philosophies declaring that man is a unified, complete being, composed of both the mind with the free will, and the body, all of which has dignity and meaning.... At the heart of the modern philosophical project is the attempt to understand human existence without reference to God.”

- Melinda Selmys, *Sexual Authenticity*

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