

1 CORINTHIANS

6:12-20 | STUDY GUIDE

Pleasure

1 CORINTHIANS 6:12, "'All things are lawful for me,' but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything." (ESV)

- Temptation & Weakness
 - Paul takes a different approach
 - Offense rather than defense: remove the temptation so as not to be dominated by it
 - Confusion regarding "rules"
 - Because Paul taught that we were now under "grace," the Corinthians seemed to think that they could do whatever they wanted
- Corinthian dinner parties: an unholy trinity
 - The wealthy often formed social cliques based on who was invited to what dinner parties
 - Parties often involved gluttony (excess was a sign of wealth), drunkenness, and hired prostitutes
- Banquets given by President of the Isthmian Games brought in traveling brothels to host and cater
 - Indulgence was a privilege
- Platonic Anthropology
 - Philo documents 1st century elitist take on Plato
 - The "senses" are "friends and allies" of the soul
 - Pleasure is merely caring for the soul
 - Wealth and success viewed as proof their philosophy was sound

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1 CORINTHIANS 6:13, "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body." (ESV)

- This view is contrary to that of the wealthy Corinthians
 - It demands a higher outlook
- A distinct separation with holy and unholy
 - "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? Never!" (1 Corinthians 6:15, ESV)

1 CORINTHIANS 6:16, "Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh.'" (ESV)

- Genesis 2:24
 - Natural vs Spiritual
 - "But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him." (1 Corinthians 6:17, ESV)

1 CORINTHIANS 6:18, "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body." (ESV)

- "I will not be dominated" (v 12)
 - "Flee" = **φεύγω**
 - For safety
 - To escape, to run away

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1 CORINTHIANS 6:19, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." (ESV)

- Most of us get uncomfortable here
 - Paul employs this motif often—he considers himself a "slave" of Christ
 - Romans 1:1, "his letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News." (NLT)
- Glorified status → ransomed from being slaves to sin, now filled with Holy Spirit

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Bruce W. Winter, *After Paul Left Corinth*, Timothy Brookins, *Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy*, Craig Keener, *1-2 Corinthians*, N.T. Wright, *The New Testament in Its World*

