

Title: RADICALS FOR SEXUAL PURITY, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12 – 20
(Chatham, NJ; 01/14/18, AM) [S-P, Exegetical]

Theme: Paul's exhortation to "flee sexual immorality" provided the world with a truly radical idea about sex, and he expands on it by teaching the sacredness of the human body.

Purpose: To challenge Hollywood's hypocrisy and to exhort the church to demonstrate this radical purity by keeping away from sexual immorality in all forms.

Introduction:

1. A recent news item said, "School in Texas cautions students about going to work for Hooters."
2. The school suggested that the restaurant doesn't represent the ideals of their institution.
3. It turned out that the school was one of ours: Abilene Christian University.
4. I haven't heard any backlash about their being prudes, but I suspect at least many in the media don't want to open their mouths because of so many recent allegations against their own.
5. Our nation would do well to re-visit Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. We are going to do that today.

America and Corinth: Cultures of Promiscuity

- A. Corinth
 1. A reputation for promiscuity: its vice and profligacy were celebrated
 2. The worship of the goddess of love, Venus, was "attended with shameful licentiousness."
 3. Look at what some of them were: sexually immoral, adulterers, and homosexuals (vs. 9)
 4. As bad as Rome was, Corinth may have been worse.
- B. America
 1. Let's begin with the darker side of Tinseltown:
 - a. Amy Berg directed a film several years ago: Deliver Us from Evil
 - b. A documentary about pedophilia
 - c. It received rave reviews and a nomination for an academy award
 - d. Two years ago she produced An Open Secret, also about pedophilia
 - e. Film festival declined to screen it, and she couldn't even get a distribution deal
 - f. The difference: the first film exposed it in the Catholic church, the second, in Hollywood
 - g. Now after all the revelations now, someone has made the film available on Vimeo
 2. We now know that Harvey Weinstein was just a symptom of an industry-wide cancer of sexual harassment, assault, and manipulation.
 3. Now that many stars and on-air personalities are making grand gestures about stopping such things, most of us are left to wonder where were all these big names and their grand pronouncements where these people were doing such things before they got caught.
 4. "We didn't know" is utterly disingenuous; they are lying
 5. But of course Hollywood loves a show, hence the recent Golden Globes
 6. The corruption doesn't stop in Hollywood: see article

Straight Talk to a Sex-Crazed Culture: Paul's Exhortation

- A. It began with Jesus
 1. Prostitutes repented and followed him
 2. A woman apparently with a reputation came and cleaned his feet out of gratitude
 3. He challenged a Samaritan woman who had had five husbands
 4. He taught that adultery begins in the heart where we desire such things
 5. Proverbs 6:25 – Do not desire her beauty in your heart
- B. Flee sexual immorality, 18
 1. Verses 12 & 13 were their justifications; Paul contradicts their proverbial justifications

2. We have plenty of the same things: “Well, it’s just the way things are today,” “We live in a different world now,” “As long as no one gets hurt,” etc.
3. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, 13
4. The material world and the body are not inherently evil as some accuse us of saying
5. They are good because God created them and gave them inherently good purposes
6. Sexual immorality violates God’s purposes

Paul’s Theology of Sexual Intercourse

- A. A union of body and spirit
 1. As Christians, our bodies are members of Christ, 15
 2. Sexual intercourse creates a one body relationship, 16
 3. Joining with prostitutes violates this
 4. By extension, sexual immorality outside of marriage violates this as well

- B. Temples of the Holy Spirit
 1. The physical body is housing for the Holy Spirit, 19
 2. We can justifiably say that it is a sacred vessel.
 3. Sacred vessels are given special treatment
 4. Thus, sexual immorality mistreats a sacred item

- C. You are not your own, 19-20
 1. Because you have been purchased by Christ, you belong to him
 2. Talk about radical!
 3. We think we are our own arbiters of right and wrong
 4. Admittedly much of this is about people who have become Christians
 5. However, sexual immorality is a universal problem

Conclusions:

1. Most often listed first in lists of sins.
2. Sexual immorality describes all manner of sexual impurity.
3. The effects of promiscuity cannot be denied, shunned, or otherwise explained away.
4. Flee sexual immorality!
5. It is time to repent, Eph. 5:6, the wrath of God.
6. It is time for Christians not to be intimidated by those who scoff at the notion of purity.
7. It is time to stand up for purity and the blessing it provides for those who live by it.