

1 Corinthians 6 Run away!

The debate

“Wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God”

This is simply the reverse side of Jesus’ teaching that that our behaviour is a mark of whether we belong to him or not.

There are a lot of activities in Paul’s list that Canadian society would call acceptable, and many of them have to do with sexual relations.

sexually immoral The Greek word, like all the rest in the list, is simply descriptive of “someone who does X.” A *pornos* is someone who has sex with someone they’re not married to.

Adulterers those who break their promise to be sexually faithful to one person

Male prostitutes, and practicing homosexuals. Homosexual sex was very common in Corinth.

But... “I have the right to do anything”

Certainly there was no law against many of the things in Paul’s list. But is that even the right question? Isn’t a better question, “Is it helpful?” for me, for society in general.

Then there’s another argument, *“Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.”* The sex drive has no more meaning than the desire to eat a Big Mac.

Greeks thought of the body as a kind of prison that held the soul back, it didn’t matter what you did with your body. But Biblically we are whole beings, body and soul. The one affects the other. There are consequences.

Our response

“that is what some of you were”

No-one is locked in. You can be set free from your past and be *“washed... sanctified... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

“Whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit”

You don’t have to do this alone.

“Flee from sexual immorality”

It’s OK to “Run away!” Our sexual drives are powerful things and they can overwhelm us. Don’t play around with them.