

“A G(odly)-Rated Christian”

1 Corinthians 6:9--7:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Romans 6

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Another Casualty of Spiritual Warfare
- We live in an X-Rated World
- The X-Rated World of First Century Corinth
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11-- *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”*

A G(odly)-Rated Christian in an X-Rated World

A. CHALLENGING the Foundational Lie of the X-Rated World-- 1 Corinthians 6:12

“All things are lawful for me.”

1. Not all things are BENEFICIAL
 - 1 Corinthians 6:12-- *“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.”*
2. Not all things are BONDAGE-FREE.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:12-13-- *“All things are lawful, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Food for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”*

B. CHALLENGING US to be “G-Rated Christians in an X-Rated World”

1. **By SUBMITTING every area of our lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.**
 - 1 Corinthians 6:13-17-- *“Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I take the members of Christ and make them the members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two’, He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”*
- a. Our bodies were not designed for sexual immorality but for the Lord.
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19-20-- *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*
- b. Our bodies do not belong to us, but to the Lord.
- c. We have the CHOICE as to whom we will serve.
 - Romans 6:13-- *“Do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.”*
 - Romans 6:19b-- *“For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness and of lawlessness, leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.”*

2. **By FLEEING from SEXUAL IMMORALITY**

- 1 Corinthians 6:18 -- *"Flee sexual immorality. Every sin a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body."*
 - Genesis 39:12 -- *"she caught him by his garment, saying, 'Lie with me.' But he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and ran outside."*
- a. We are "NO CONTEST" for sexual temptations.
 - b. As we flee from sexual temptation, we develop self-control over our bodies.
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:4 -- *"know how to possess one's own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God."*

3. **By FOCUSING on MEETING our MATE'S NEEDS.**

- 1 Corinthians 7:1-5 --*"Now concerning the thing of which you wrote to me: It is not good for a man to touch a woman. Nevertheless because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. Let the husband render to the wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control."*
- a. As married couples, our bodies belong to our mates, and therefore we should focus on meeting our mate's needs.
 - b. Failure to do so opens up an opportunity for Satan to tempt us in matters of self-control.
 - c. How to "affair proof" your marriage? The needs of your mate.
 - 1) Dr. Willard Harley, His Needs, Her Needs; Building an Affair-Proof Marriage
 - a) Her needs: Affection, Conversation, Honesty and Openness, Financial Commitment, and Family Commitment
 - b) His needs: Sexual Fulfillment, Recreational Companionship, Attractive Spouse, Domestic Support, Admiration
 - 2) Gary Chapman, Five Love Languages: The Secret to Love that Lasts
 - a) Words of Affirmation
 - b) Quality Time
 - c) Acts of Service
 - d) Gifts
 - e) Physical Touch