

In and Out
#6: In the Body, But Not of It
June 2-4, 2007

^{6:13}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. ¹⁴By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵Do 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! ¹⁶Do 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.” ¹⁷But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins people commit are outside their bodies, but those who sin sexually sin against their own bodies. ¹⁹Do 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; ²⁰you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies. ^{7:1}Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” ²But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. ³The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. ⁴The wife does not have authority over her own body but yields it to her husband. In the same way, the husband does not have authority over his own body but yields it to his wife. ⁵Do not deprive each other except perhaps by mutual consent and for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer. Then come together again so that Satan will not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. ⁶I say this as a concession, not as a command. ⁷I wish that all of you were as I am. But each of you has your own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that. ⁸Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. ⁹But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion.

1 Corinthians 6:13-7:9 TNIV

Introduction: Perhaps the most pressing issue facing believers who live in our culture is how to live “in the world, but not of it.” This is especially true for a church like Columbia in a place like Washington. In our over-stimulated culture, it is particularly difficult for Christians to remain sexually pure.

In order to follow Christ, we must learn to be “in the body, but not of it.”

- I. The Body Principle
 - A. A dangerous falsehood: “It’s only natural.” (v.6:13a)
 - B. The truth: “It’s only spiritual.” (v.6:13b)
 - C. The body principle in practice:
 1. Resurrection (Jesus’ and ours) demonstrates God’s mastery of the flesh (v.14),
 2. Wherever our bodies go, there Christ is (v.15),
 3. Sexual union out of wedlock breaks our spiritual bonds to Jesus Christ (vv.16-17),
 4. Sexual immorality perverts God’s plans for the human body (v.18),
 5. Sexual immorality denounces the power and presence of the Holy Spirit (v.19a),
 6. Our bodies belong to God because we have been purchased with the blood of Jesus (vv.19b-20).
- II. The Body Protector
 - A. Paul’s personal preference was that each believer wholly commit themselves to relationship with Christ, but he recognized the power of the flesh and regarded marriage as a spiritual protection. (vv.7:1-2)
 - B. The husband is his wife’s spiritual guardian, the wife the husband’s, as marriage partners protect one another from sexual perversion. (v.3)
 - C. Husbands and wives are stewards of each other’s bodies on behalf of God. (v.4)
 - D. Marriage is the safe-keeping place that God has created for ongoing sexual expression. (v.5)
- III. The Body Privilege
 - A. Paul viewed purity in singleness as a “gift” and an opportunity to honor Christ. (vv.7:6-7)
 - B. To his thinking, the state of “unmarriage” was a privilege offering deeper fellowship with Christ. (v.8)
 - C. Paul encouraged those who could not control their passions to marry. (v.9)

Conclusion: To live as true disciples of Jesus Christ, it is absolutely necessary that we be “in the body, but not of it.”