

INTRO: Today, TV and movies use words that I cannot bring myself to repeat. They show people doing things that would have been forbidden a generation or two ago. If enough people in our society decide to do something, we change the law to make it legal. So we allow the U.S. Supreme court to declare the murder of unborn babies to be legal. Congress votes, and homosexual practice is not only OK, it is privileged and protected behavior. Society today says right and wrong are all relative.

I. GOD PROHIBITS CERTAIN BEHAVIOR

A. For example... (v.13)

1. food is meant for the stomach, and the stomach for food
2. So, no food is sinful! Per se
3. overeating or poor diet are harmful, ergo sinful
4. likewise, sexual relations are not sinful, per se
5. sexual activity before or outside marriage is sinful
6. sexuality is no more sinful than hunger
7. its consequences may be more far-reaching, however
8. but God does not just make lists of do's and don'ts

B. God establishes principles for behavior

1. rejected: anything goes (v.12) especially between consenting adults
2. even what is permitted is not without limits
3. that's Paul's point WRT food and sexual activity, as examples
4. consider if it is helpful (to self and to others)
5. consider if it is enslaving
6. can/will it become a matter of idolatry
7. sex and food are gifts from God, but a poor substitute **for** God

II. GOD'S PROHIBITIONS RARELY IMPROVE BEHAVIOR

A. With respect to food, for example

1. if weight table or scale or Doctor says to lose weight, will you?
2. ask Weight Watchers or Nutrisystem if they simply say, "don't"
3. it didn't work in Eden: "Don't eat that fruit" a simple rule, law
4. you eat, you die; they ate, they died; and look at the consequences!
5. my theory: **forbidden** fruit is even more desirable!

B. With respect to sexuality

1. some studies show increase in teen sex and pregnancies since sex education was begun in schools
2. tell a child not to play with the red fire truck, and then leave the room
3. AIDS and death only prompt drug research and caution; doesn't stop homosexual behavior
4. cohabitation of senior citizens rivals that of young adults
5. idolatry of "I want" vs. God's will applies to 6th commandment, also
6. there's an unwillingness in man to do it God's way; obey/love/give
7. nothing new: Eden's fruit; David and Bathsheba; my way now

C. Consider also the 7th commandment WRT murder

1. selfishness, sin grows, leads to further sin (e.g., King David)
2. so illicit sex; out-of-wedlock pregnancy; murder of abortion
3. behind it all is selfish desire; rebellion against God
4. basic sin of loving self above God
5. will it solve it if we add a commandment against rebelling against God?
6. will another commandment change peoples' behavior?

III. ONLY GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRES US TO GLORIFY GOD (vv.19-20)

A. Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (**naos** = sanctuary, holy of holies)

1. nor is it the tabernacle, tent church; temporary dwelling
2. 12:3 no man can say Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost
3. John 3:5 except born of water and Spirit, cannot enter kingdom
4. Holy Spirit is given as gift in Baptism (Acts 2:38) Pastor, last Sunday
5. Spirit enters us through eyes and ears
6. we are a complex creation of body and mind and soul (**nephesh**)
7. God creates and sustains faith via His means
8. Spirit even intercedes knowing the will of the Father (Romans 8:26)
9. shouldn't awareness of His presence affect our use of His temple
10. I say, even respect for the body even after it's death (committal liturgy: may God the Holy Spirit who dwelt in this body as His temple...)

B. You were bought with a price (v.20)

1. bought = redeemed; not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood..
2. paid for; my e.g. of check vs. cash; payment won't bounce
3. Bible is God's cancelled receipt of Jesus' payment for sins of the world
4. read it yourself: humbled Himself in Incarnation; fasted, refused bread from stone; fed hungry crowds; committed no sin, ever
5. permitted beaten and scourged body to be crucified as our sin payment
6. we can love Him because He has first loved us
7. now, there's a motivation!
8. we can love God, and thus our neighbor; respect his body as also our own
9. motivation for issues of eating, sexuality, marriage, abortion; all of life

CONCLUSION: Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own; For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Amen.