Problem -> Sexual Immorality (Pt 2)

For Every Bodily Action...

(1) Is it beneficial?

(2) Will it overpower and enslave me?

(3) Will it support the truth that the body is "for the Lord"

(4) Will it support the truth that "the Lord [is] for the body"?

Food is Meant for the...

Here is their human logic:

*If the physical activity of eating and digesting doesn't have any impact on one's morals, then other physical activities, like sexual immorality, also do not impact one's spiritual wellbeing.

*Everything done with the body is just part of the natural process.

*Paul acknowledges that the hunger for food is temporary but DENIES any attempt to draw a parallel between eating and sexual immorality!

The Body is NOT MEANT...

Here is Paul's spiritual rebuttal:

*The body is not meant for sexual immorality: i.e. sexual relations outside of the God-instituted bonds of marriage (**13**)

-7:3-5; Heb 13:4

*The purpose of the body is for service of the Lord, to be used in His Kingdom (**13**)

-Rom 12:1

*The Lord is meant for the body – The Lord, through His Spirit, dwells in, acts, and provides for the bodies of those who are united with Him in the blood of Christ (**13**)

-3:16; Acts 2:38; Rom 8:9-11; Eph 1:13-14

Excuses for their continued indulgence in immorality, possibly twisting Paul's words regarding freedom in Christ (10:23; Jn 8:32, 36)

12 "***All things are lawful for me***," but not all things are **helpful**. "***All things are lawful for me***," but I will not be **dominated** by anything.

13 "***Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food***"—and **God** will *destroy both one and the other*. **The body is not meant for sexual immorality**, but ***for the Lord***, and the ***Lord for the body***.

14 And **God** ***raised the Lord*** and will also ***raise us up*** by his power. **<- Our bodies have a future (15:42-44)**

15 **Do you not know** that your ***bodies are members of Christ***? Shall I then take the members of Christ and ***make them members of a prostitute***? Never! **<- 12:27**

16 Or **do you not know** that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes ***one body with her***? **For** as it is written, "***The two will become one flesh***." **<- Gen 2:24 becoming "one body" with another is exclusively for the God-instituted bonds of marriage**

17 **But** he who is ***joined to the*** **Lord** becomes ***one spirit with him***. **<- It is inconsistent to be joined with Christ and Joined with another in sexual immorality!**

18 **Flee from sexual immorality**. Every other sin a person commits is ***outside the body***, but the sexually immoral person ***sins against his own body***. **<- In view of these things "Flee from sexual immorality!"**

19 Or **do you not know** that ***your body is a temple of the*** **Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? ***You are not your own***,

The Price Is the Blood of Christ

20 for ***you were bought with a price***. **So** ***glorify God in your body***. **<- In view of these things "glorify God in your body!"**

Romans 12:1

Freedom in Christ

Freedom from the penalty of the law:

***Rom 8:1-2** *"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death"*

***Gal 3:13** *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us"*

***Gal 5:1** *"For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery"*

NOT: Freedom to indulge the sinful nature:

***Gal 5:13** *"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh"*

The Body is NOT MEANT...

Paul's rebuttal (continued):

*Unlike hunger, our bodies have a future (**14**)

-15:42-44; Phil 3:20-21

*Our bodies, with God's Spirit, are members of Christ's body. Don't join Christ with another in the act of sexual immorality. *Paul is dramatically escalating the seriousness of this sin!* (**15-17**)

-12:27; Gen 2:24; Mt 19:3-6; Eph 5:30

*Sexual immorality makes the body itself an instrument of sin (**18**)

*The body is "a temple of the Holy Spirit" (**19**)

*God has purchased the right to our lives and our bodies, so use your body to glorify Him! (**19-20**)

-7:23; Acts 20:28; Titus 2:14; 1Pe 1:18-19;

Through the Lens of Faith

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Freedom in Christ

1 Corinthians 10:23 (ESV)
23 "All things are lawful," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful," but not all things build up.

John 8:32 (ESV)
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:36 (ESV)
36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Romans 8:1–2 (ESV)
1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Galatians 3:13 (ESV)
13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"—

Galatians 5:1 (ESV)
1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Galatians 5:13 (ESV)
13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

The Body is NOT Meant

Sexual Relations in Marriage

1 Corinthians 7:3–5 (ESV)
3 The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. 5 Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.

Hebrews 13:4 (ESV)
4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Body is for the Lord

Romans 12:1 (ESV)
1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Lord is for the Body / Temple of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)
16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Acts 2:38 (ESV)
38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9–11 (ESV)
9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV)
13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

Future Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:42–44 (ESV)
42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

Philippians 3:20–21 (ESV)
20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Members of Christ's Body / Two Become One

1 Corinthians 12:27 (ESV)
27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

Genesis 2:24 (ESV)

24 Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Matthew 19:3–6 (ESV)
3 And Pharisees came up to him and tested him by asking, "Is it lawful to divorce one's wife for any cause?" 4 He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, 5 and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? 6 So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Ephesians 5:30 (ESV)
30 because we are members of his body.

Purchased by God

1 Corinthians 7:23 (ESV)
23 You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.

Acts 20:28 (ESV)
28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Titus 2:14 (ESV)
14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (ESV)
18 knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.