



THE GOSPEL AND IDENTITY

MAY 12, 2024 | 1 CORINTHIANS 6:12-20

THE MYTH OF SELF-OWNERSHIP

- We teach our children → “You can be _____ you want to be!”
- We tell graduating seniors → “Chase your _____.”
“Follow your _____!”
- People go through a mid-life crisis → “I couldn’t _____/_____ my dream.” or “I did fulfill my dream, but it didn’t _____.”
- Many failed marriages → “You’re not meeting my needs, therefore you are _____.”
- Sexuality/gender identity issues → “No one else can _____ who I am”—not family, not previous generations, not teachers, not religious institutions, etc.

The _____ of this age: “I am my own and I belong to _____.”

The uncaring and evil reality of the myth of self-ownership is that what looks and feels like freedom is, in fact, _____.

BECAUSE I BELONG TO CHRIST...

- ① ...I don’t have to _____ my own existence.
- ② ...I don’t have to “_____” myself or “_____” my identity.
- ③ ...I am no longer enslaved to my _____.
- ④ ...I am free to follow God’s _____ rather than make up my own foolish rules.
- ⑤ ...I don’t have to clamor or compete for _____ by putting myself on _____.
- ⑥ ...I don’t have to constantly _____ myself.
- ⑦ ...I have a clear and wonderful _____.
- ⑧ ...I don’t have to _____ in my own story.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. In what ways do Americans typically mistreat their bodies? What do you think are the biggest challenges to sexual purity in our society?
2. Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20. “I have the right to do anything” or “Everything is permissible for me” (v. 12) was probably a saying from some Corinthians who felt they were above moral rules and that their bodies had nothing to do with their spiritual lives. What arguments does Paul use to refute this (5-6 from entire passage)?
3. Paul calls the body a “temple of the Holy Spirit” (v. 19). How does the biblical view of the body presented here contrast with our culture’s modern view? How can understanding your body as a temple of the Holy Spirit lead to a healthy balance of bodily control and bodily celebration?
4. Think of some pleasure you are fond of. Evaluate it according to the tests in verses 12-13 & 19-20. Is it beneficial? Is it threatening to control you? Does it glorify God, who has bought you at a price and made your body His temple?
5. Read Philippians 3:4b-11. What advantages has Paul lost (vv. 4-6)? How does Paul’s loss help him to gain Christ (vv. 7-9)?
6. Contrast Paul the Pharisee (vv. 4-6) with Paul the Christian (vv. 7-11). How have his reasons for confidence changed?