

Scripture Reference: [1 Cor. 6:15-20](#)

Date: December 23, 2012

Title: "God in You"

Focus: Christians live the reality of the incarnation. God lives in them.

Body:

Sometimes [Christians Act Other than Like Jesus \(vv. 15-16\)](#)

- A problem in Corinth was some believers were going to temple prostitutes.
- Though cultural and acceptable at that time, it was behavior that can unquestionably be said Christ would not engage in.
- We experience in our own lives and that of others, that Followers of Jesus can behave in a very unchristlike manner ([Col 3:8-10](#)).
- We resolve this dilemma by saying such individuals aren't saved or lost their salvation. But Paul doesn't go there. He instead raises the issue of a believer's union with Christ.
- As Paul saw it, the Corinthians behaved as they did because they failed to understand they were joined with Christ.

"The one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him." (vv. 17-19)

- Going to the heart of this matter, Paul asks a simple question, "*Do you not know the your bodies are members of Christ?*"
- Paul explains the God / man, disciple / master union, this way. A believer is "*one spirit with Him [God].*"
- Using their acts of intimacy with the temple prostitutes and architecture as examples, Paul explores this oneness:

The Temple Prostitutes (v. 18) - Believers are One with God

Intercourse: sexual relations between a man and a woman is the means by which two people become "one flesh." This was God's intent and design in it (v. 16 - the application of [Gen. 2:24](#)).

- There is no closer act of intimacy between two people. When they engage in sexual relations, they are emotionally and spiritually coming together ([v. 18](#)).
- This is also why sex is reserved for marriage.
- Instead humanity has degraded sex as a means of self-gratification.
- The oneness that exists between a husband and wife, mirrors the oneness present between God and His child. Through "richer or poorer, sickness and health, for better or worse," God will never leave nor forsake His disciple ([Ruth 1:16-17](#)).
- Believers are to recognize their lives as not their own. Being united with God, He becomes a factor to consider in the decisions made in life.

Architecture (v. 19) - God Lives in the Believer

- This verse is not about taking care of your body. It is a statement about how a disciple relates to God. He is present in the believer.

- This illustration relates directly to everything said in the OT about the temple. The disciple is the place where, through His Spirit, God resides. Your life is the place He makes Himself known. Your life is the place where worship and reconciliation are made.
- God lives not in a church or far away place. He is nearer than you think. He lives in the life of everyone who has entered into relationship with Him.
- Whatever a believer partakes of, God is present in it.

More Care is Taken When One's Actions Affect Someone Else (v. 20)

- Being in union with God, when the Corinthian Christians went to the prostitutes, they took God along. They *joined* Him to a prostitute!
- God is not present with or through His people. A follower of Jesus must recognize He is present in His people.
- The failure of the Corinthians to understand this led them to be careless with their conduct.
- An excuse often used for sin is, "It's my life." or "It's not hurting anyone." Paul words challenge this for the follower of Jesus. Our actions do affect God.

Closing:

1. A Follower of Christ is not defined by what one knows or how he acts, but by whether God knows him ([Matt 7:22-23](#)).
2. A Follower of Christ has accepted the forgiveness of sin made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus and is surrendering her life daily to walk in relationship with God ([John 1:12](#)).
3. *Followers of Christ live the incarnation. God lives in them.*