

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

November 2, 2014

9. Sexual Immorality

1Corinthians 6:12-20

A Spiritual Church is the body of believers; those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. These believers have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God; and have become members of Christ. Otherwise the Church will be like any other social club. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from the pagan society from which it has been called. One of the sticky situations in the Church is “Sexual Immorality”.

The believer has a free will to choose to do anything he desires but not everything is beneficial. Sex is good in the context of marriage; but sexual immorality is not beneficial. Yet in the Spiritual Church at Corinth sexual immorality was rampant. Is the Spiritual Church today any much different from that Church in Corinth? In fact the Church today practices sexual immorality just like the pagan society from which it has been called. Things are even getting worse because even the gay society now practices its sexual immorality openly – even in the church. There is no longer any remorse about any kind of sexual immorality anymore. Everyone claims they have the right to practice any kind of sexual immorality. And our nation, (the Mighty USA!) is leading the rest of world in enacting laws to protect all kinds of sexual immorality. Yes, everything is lawful for you but not everything is beneficial to you. All kinds of sins that one commits are not against your own body but all kinds of sexual immorality are against your body. It is a matter of time and your body will reap what it has sown. And remember your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells you. Therefore flee from sexual immorality and honor God in your bodies.

Thus our text for today begins, ““I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything. 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. 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do 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! 16 Do 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.”[Gen. 2:24] 17 But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit [Or in the Spirit]. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. 19 Do 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; 20 you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (1Corinthians 6:12-20).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Spiritual church. It is:

- The church of God
- The body of believers in Christ Jesus
- Enriched with grace in speech and knowledge
- Not lacking any spiritual gift
- Waiting eagerly for our Lord Jesus to be revealed

- Kept firm to the end so that it will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Called by a faithful God into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Individuals whose conduct, character and calling reflect a relationship with God Almighty!
- Where there is agreement in what the brethren say
- Where there be no divisions among brethren, but perfect unity in mind and thought
- Where there are no quarrels
- Where everyone follows Jesus Christ because they were baptized in His Name
- Where the gospel is preached—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power
- Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.
- Where there are no lawsuits among believers; but Shepherds direct the affairs of the church towards great relationships through forgiveness and reconciliation as led by the Holy Spirit.
- Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality.
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

To become part of the Spiritual Church as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth that God may commend you ultimately. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS
November 9, 2014 **10. Concerns of Married Life** **1Corinthians 7:1-16**

A Spiritual Church is the body of believers; those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. These believers have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God; and have become members of Christ. Otherwise the Church will be like any other social club. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from the pagan society from which it has been called. One of the sticky situations in the Church is “Concerns of Married Life”.

There are three main concerns of married life: sexual relations, self-control and salvation. Marriage is God ordained and sanctified institution for sexual intimacy between a man and a woman. Therefore sex is good in the context of marriage; but if married couples deny themselves this privilege, sexual immorality which is not beneficial is encouraged where self-control is lacking. The purpose of marriage in the church is to reflect the profound mysterious relationship that exists between Christ and his bride, the Church. Couples in marriage must learn to love and submit to one another like Paul instructed in Ephesians 5:21-30: “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing [Or having cleansed] her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” [Gen. 2:24]. 32 This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband”. Yet in the Spiritual Church at Corinth sexual immorality was rampant. Is the Spiritual Church today any much different from that Church in Corinth? In fact the Church today practices sexual immorality just like the pagan society from which it has been called. Things are even getting worse because even the gay society now practices its sexual immorality openly – even in the church. There is no longer any remorse about any kind of sexual immorality. Recall from last Sunday we learned that everything is lawful but not everything is beneficial; and that all kinds of sins that one commits are not against your own body but all kinds of sexual immorality are against your body. So, always bear in mind that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who indwells you and flee from sexual immorality in order to honor God in your bodies. The Church at Corinth wrote Paul about concerns of married life.

Thus our text for today begins, “Now for the matters you wrote about: “It is good for a man not to have sexual relations with a woman.” 2 But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband. 3 The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband. 4 The 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. 5 Do 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. 6 I say this as a concession, not as a command. 7 I 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. 8 Now to the unmarried [Or widowers] and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I do. 9 But if they cannot control themselves, they should marry, for it is better to marry than to burn with passion. 10 To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. 11 But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. 12 To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must

not divorce her. 13 And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. 14 For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy. 15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let it be so. The brother or the sister is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife?" (1 Corinthians 7:1-16).

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- Individuals whose conduct, character and calling reflect a relationship with God Almighty!
- Where there is agreement in what the brethren say
- Where there be no divisions among brethren, but perfect unity in mind and thought
- Where there are no quarrels
- Where everyone follows Jesus Christ because they were baptized in His Name
- Where the gospel is preached—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power
- Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.
- Where there are no lawsuits among believers; but Shepherds direct the affairs of the church towards great relationships through forgiveness and reconciliation as led by the Holy Spirit.
- Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality.
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

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Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

November 16, 2014 11. Concerns of Change of Status and the Unmarried

1Cori. 7:17-40

A Spiritual Church is the body of believers; those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. These believers have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God; and have become members of Christ. Otherwise the Church will be like any other social club. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from the pagan society from which it has been called. The love of titles and status quo are some of the sticky situations in the Church. Today we shall focus our discussion on “Concerns of Change of Status and the Unmarried”.

The paramount question to answer is what should I do when I become a believer? Should I leave or abandon the situation or place where I found the Lord and move to greener pastures? Should I serve where God has assigned to me at my conversion or should I go somewhere else? Should I leave my spouse when I am converted when they are not or stay with them? Should I abandon my job and follow the Lord, leave my boss or stay? Should I marry or stay single? What should I do? These might have been some or similar questions or concerns that the Corinthian Church wrote to Paul. Parts of these concerns are addressed in today’s text: 1Corinthians 7:17-40; but the key thing to always remember is that keeping God’s commands is what counts.

Thus our text for today begins, “Nevertheless, each person should live as a believer in whatever situation the Lord has assigned to them, just as God has called them. This is the rule I lay down in all the churches. 18 Was a man already circumcised when he was called? He should not become uncircumcised. Was a man uncircumcised when he was called? He should not be circumcised. 19 Circumcision is nothing and un-circumcision is nothing. Keeping God’s commands is what counts. 20 Each person should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. 21 Were you a slave when you were called? Don’t let it trouble you—although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For the one who was a slave when called to faith in the Lord is the Lord’s freed person; similarly, the one who was free when called is Christ’s slave. 23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of human beings. 24 Brothers and sisters, each person, as responsible to God, should remain in the situation they were in when God called them. 25 Now about virgins: I have no command from the Lord, but I give a judgment as one who by the Lord’s mercy is trustworthy. 26 Because of the present crisis, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is. 27 Are you pledged to a woman? Do not seek to be released. Are you free from such a commitment? Do not look for a wife. 28 But if you do marry, you have not sinned; and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But those who marry will face many troubles in this life, and I want to spare you this. 29 What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; 30 those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; 31 those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away. 32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord’s affairs—how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world—how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are

divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world—how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord. 36 If anyone is worried that he might not be acting honorably toward the virgin he is engaged to, and if his passions are too strong [Or if she is getting beyond the usual age for marriage] and he feels he ought to marry, he should do as he wants. He is not sinning. They should get married. 37 But the man who has settled the matter in his own mind, who is under no compulsion but has control over his own will, and who has made up his mind not to marry the virgin—this man also does the right thing. 38 So then, he who marries the virgin does right, but he who does not marry her does better. 39 A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord. 40 In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is—and I think that I too have the Spirit of God.” (1 Corinthians 7:17-40).

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- And let the church say, “Amen!”

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mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood on Calvary, and you will be saved and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth that God may commend you ultimately. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Evangelist R. D. Jacobs

The Book of Corinthians

The Spiritual Church with Sticky Situations

November 23, 2014 12. Food Offered to Idols 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

The Apostle Paul addresses sticky situations in the church and then gives solutions based on the Bible! We are a group of Regenerated believers; our souls have been renewed from the effects of the sinful flesh but do to our sin, we as the Church may still face sticky situations. But, with our Regeneration we are more spiritual than we are carnal because we know that there is One God, who Creates, sustains, Gives, Takes, Rules and Judges. It is by this knowledge that we base what we do and it is the Holy Spirit that who opens us up to Believing and Accepting Christ!

The Issue in our Text was concerning the touching of things offered to idols and eating those things. The Church in Corinth was familiar with the Law and not eating nor touching such things, but Paul says this issue will require more Love than Knowledge on the issue. (vs. 1-3). Love covers a multitude of sin, as well as seeks to edify/build up others. Why does it require love, because our Knowledge and Love of Christ is what makes the difference for us in what we do. (vs. 4-6) So even if the food is offered to a false idol god, we know that there is but One God! (vs. 7-8)

The Love part, deals with others knowledge of God. Some are young in the faith and they still think about idols. Paul assures us though, that food does not bring us any closer nor drive us further from God. But for those that may stumble by your knowledge of God or your freedom, Paul simply says do not eat the foods in his conclusion. All of this is based on our Knowledge of God to know him for who He is, what He has done in securing our Salvation. (vs. 9-11) So the Apostle Paul says with an Exclamation mark, if it offends your brethren, Do not do it. Why? (vs. 12-13) It is a sin unto Christ to make your brethren fall, rather than cause them to fall we should build them up in the faith unto the full Knowledge of Christ. Once they have that full knowledge of Christ, they understand their freedom in Christ. Once you accept Christ as your Savior and Lord, He gives you the freedom from sin and in return we live, move, and have our total being in Him!!

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

November 30, 2014

13. Paul's Rights as an Apostle

1Cori. 9:1-18

A Spiritual Church is the body of believers; those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior with the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from the pagan society from which it has been called. Self-pride always make people look down on others. Church members sometimes have the audacity to look down on the Pastors or Shepherds and disrespect them often by sitting in judgment of what the pastor does. Such was the case in the Corinthian Church where Paul was disrespected and not thought of as an Apostle. Today we shall focus our discussion on "Paul's Rights as an Apostle".

The Church in Corinth had allowed false teachers in their midst to infuriate against Paul and diminish the reality of his apostleship. As such some in the Church had embraced division to the extent that some elected not to follow the leadership of Paul but Apollos and Peter while the rest simply said we will just follow the Leadership of Jesus. The same false teachers and falsehood tend to exist in our Churches today that lead members to form cliques and hence divisions become the norm of the day in the Church rather than unity. It is not new for a minister to meet with unkind returns for good-will to a people as well as diligent and successful services among them. So to the complaining few the apostle answers in our text for the day to set forth himself as an example of self-denial for the good of others. He had a right to marry as well as other apostles, and to claim what was needful for his wife, and his children if he had any, from the churches, without laboring with his own hands to get it. Those who seek to do our souls good, should have food provided for them. But he renounced his right rather than hinder his success by claiming it. It is the people's (Church Member's) duty to maintain their minister. He may waive his right, as Paul did; but those transgress a precept of Christ as He expects Church to support the rights of the apostles or ministers. Further, Paul had actually been accused by some of the Church members at Corinth that he was not an apostle because he was weak, feeble, pathetic and not eloquent in speech. In response to these accusations, Paul defended his right as an apostle.

Thus our text for today begins, "Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? 2 Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. 3 This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. 4 Don't we have the right to food and drink? 5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas [That is, Peter]? 6 Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living? 7 Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? 8 Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? 9 For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." [Deut. 25:4] Is it about oxen that God is concerned? 10 Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. 11 If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? 12 If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ. 13 Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple, and that those

who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? 14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel. 15 But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. 16 For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! 17 If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel” (1 Corinthians 9:1-18).

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