

1 Corinthian 6:9-20

Guardrails

A reading of church history reveals something very sad about the church in the past.

A) Rather than standing out as beacons for Jesus in their culture –

B) They would get sucked into the mindset and the practices of the culture.

C) Time and again we see that followers of Christ fell into beliefs and practices that were considered acceptable in their cultures.

D) They were sidetracked by what we might call the cultural norms of their society

In today's vernacular the argument might go something like this:

A) Well the Bible doesn't say I can't do it - (Heard that one)

B) Might be true but the Bible say you shouldn't hit yourself in the head with a hammer – right
1) But common sense tells you – I shouldn't do that – might hurt

C) Or the Bible doesn't say – Don't pull a Dog's tail – common sense says not a good idea

1) And as a Five year old I had no common sense – bit my face

Part of the problem we have seen with the church in Corinth is they forgot who they were in Jesus

A) They forgot that they were a people who have been called out of one thing and called into something else

B) Called out of the world – called into the family of God

1) New belief is supposed to result in new behavior

C) So Paul has been admonishing the Corinthian church to be who they are in Jesus instead of who they used to be in their flesh

D) The Corinthian church had lost sight of their new reality in Christ –

1) which was causing them to form divisions –

E) And tolerate sin in their midst

1) and even take each other to court over – trivial disputes – just like the unbelievers

F) Some were even falling back into sexual practices that were a part of their old life before Christ.

So once again Paul is seeking to REMIND them of their position in Christ.

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, ¹⁰ nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

The old you

- Fornicators – those engaged in sex outside of marriage
- Idolaters – those engaged in the worship and following of false deities
- Adulterers – those who break the sanctity of marriage by getting involved sexually and emotionally with someone other than their spouse
- Homosexuals – those in engaged in same sex relations
- Sodomites – Male prostitutes
- Thieves – steal
- Covetous – they who want what someone else has
- Drunkards – those who abuse alcohol and drugs
- Revilers – those who slander and falsely accuse others
- Extortioners – those who swindle others

⁹ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived.

A) Now in the book of Galatians in Chapter 5 under the description of the works of the flesh Paul has a very similar list

B) But with that list – Paul adds this phrase – those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God

1)Practice speaks of lifestyle – continual practice - it is what they are about –

Paul's point is That is who you used to be – that used to be your practice but not anymore –

A)You have been washed of your sins – sanctified – set apart to the Lord

B)Justified – declared righteous by the Lord

C)You have been rescued from that lifestyle – so don't get tangled back up into it.

In the rest of the chapter Paul gives us some guard- rails that can help keep us from getting sucked into the cultural norms of our society

A)Guardrails are there placed on a road to help us know that danger is there – cliffs

B)Guardrails are also placed to keep us on the right path

C)God's word provides guardrails for us – keep us on the path – Psalm 105 Your word is a lamp... light unto my path

D)Consider the guardrails – here in 1 Cor 6
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.

Guardrail #1 Is it helpful - ¹² All things are lawful (permissible) for me, but all things are not helpful.

sister passage 1 Corinthians 10:23 – ²³“All things are lawful,” (permissible) but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful, (permissible) ” but not all things build up.

So the first question I need to ask myself is this: Is this going to be helpful for me or hurtful

A)Is this activity or this relationship going to advance my relationship with Jesus or is it going to hinder it.

B)If your life was a battery – power of Jesus in your life – some things drain the battery

1)Other things charge the battery of your life in Jesus

C)College friend Tim F – we drained each other batteries –

1)It was not a helpful friendship – we tended to influence each other in the wrong ways.

Was it permissible for us to be friends? Yes

A)Was it helpful no! – Opposite - conversation was never about the Lord –

B)No iron sharpening iron – just not a good friendship

C)Similar dating relationships - Not the right time – not the right person

1)I don't come away from spending time with this person – closer to Jesus

D) I want to be around people who build me up in the Lord

1)I want to be that kind of person to others – So I ask is this helpful ?

Hebrews 12 – Run the race - Laying aside the weights and the sin

A)Sins we understand – black and white clear in scripture

B)Weights are different – weights can be those gray areas – might not be a sin – but not good for me

C)Weights are things that impede our growth in Jesus

#1 Is it Helpful

#2 Will I be dominated by this? V.12b All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

So here is a cultural norm that can have a detrimental effect on believers

A)Drinking Alcohol – True that the Bible says it is not a sin to drink Alcohol

B)And Yes Jesus drank wine – real wine!

C)Alcohol becomes a sin when a person gets drunk.

1)But here is where the dilemma comes in – what constitutes being drunk ?

Ask most people especially those who like to drink – they will say that being drunk is when you lose control of your faculties

A)When I can't stand up any more – start to slur your speech –

B)Is that being drunk? – Webster's dictionary defines – Drunkenness as being - having the faculties impaired by alcohol

C)Not a loss of control – but my Faculties simply impaired

D)Faculties – are the powers of the mind, my senses or my body being influenced by a substance

What does Webster know anyway– he was probably a teetotaler!

A)Here is CA – being legally drunk is having a level of alcohol in the blood that of .08

B)This a conversation that I have had with many of my Christian friends who like to drink Alcohol
1)do you ever get drunk? NO of course not !

C)Ok – so why did you have your wife drive home from the wedding reception the other night –
1)after you had a few beers – glass of wine ?

D)I didn't want to take any chances – chances of what ? Getting pulled over – DUI – expensive

Their actions are contradictory – to their words:

A)I am not drunk – my senses are not impaired - but just in case – I am going to have my wife drive home

B)I hesitate having that conversation with them – because the last thing I want them to do is get behind the wheel of a car

C)But sometimes I will have that conversation trying to get them to see – Drunk is drunk

D)Is drinking a sin? No – can it lead to drunkenness
1)Can lead to being under the power of a controlled substance – yes

E)Can a person become dependent on it ? Yes

Questions to ask yourself: Do you need a drink to help you relax and destress?

A)Would reading your Bible or listening to praise music be a better more helpful option

B)Do you need a drink at night to help you sleep?

1)Would prayer – or putting on an audio book be a better option

C)Alcohol consumption is a norm in our society but is it helpful for me as a believer ?

1)Is there a potential for me to be brought under its power?

Guardrails

#1 Is it Helpful?

#2 Will I be dominated by this?

#3 Is this going to defile God's temple?

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.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 harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. (Great verse)

A)The Stomach is made for food and food for the Stomach – AMEN

B)Thank God for pizza – and in and out burger

C)God made our stomachs for food – body designed with an intricate digestive system –

1)take food from the stomach – turn it into fuel for the body

D)This is the point that Paul is making – your stomach has a purpose it is for food

Your body also has a purpose:

V.13b Now the body *is not* for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

A) Here is a Cultural norm today that can creep into the church – **It doesn't matter what we do – as long as it involves two consenting adults**

B) Raise your hand if you have heard that?

C) Paul would argue -the body is not for sexual immorality –

What is sexual immorality? –

A) Any sexual behavior between two people that is outside of the Biblical definition of marriage –

B) The union between a Man and woman – Husband and wife

C) Any sexual activity that is not under that banner – is sexual immorality – the Bible says that is a sin

D) Your body was not made for sexual immorality – your body was made for the Lord –
1) you belong to him

v. ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

A) You have been blood bought – **PURCHASED** – not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Jesus

B) Your body is not made to be wasted on sinful practices –
1) you have been made to glorify God with your body

C) Paul addresses the common misnomer that people make today about sex – It is just sex – no big deal

1) Friends with benefits – Just having fun

Paul says when you are having sex with someone it is more than just two bodies coming together

A) It is two spirits – two souls coming together

B) You are becoming one with that person – physically emotionally and spiritually –

C) You are literally giving away a piece of yourself ever single time

And not only that – but if you are a Christian You are joining Jesus to that person too.

A) V.15 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 harlot? Certainly not!

B) Lord- want to get w/ a prostitute tonight ?

Not only are you joining yourself to that person but you are joining Jesus to that person

A) V.18 is a heavy verse that puts sexual immorality into a whole different class of sins **Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body**

B) He/she sins against their own bodies – why because our bodies are the temple of God –

1) His spirit lives in us

C) Think about the temple – the temple is where the Glory of God dwelt

The temple was often defiled -brought idols into it – or shameful practices were done there

A) The temple of God was to be holy – Your body is meant to be holy – set apart to the Lord

B) Why sex in marriage is such a beautiful thing – spiritual - joining two bodies – souls and spirits together before the Lord

C) Glorifies the Lord – our bodies were designed for this

1) But sexual immorality does the opposite – it defiles the temple of God

So V.18 ¹⁸ Flee sexual immorality

A) Flee in the Greek is FUGO – Fool go – run get out of there

B) Follow the example of Joseph – ran right out of his clothes

C) Flee from it as fast as you can! – FOOL GO – run -don't play around with it

Proverbs 16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil;

A) The Highway – what do you think of – Highway is where cars go fast

B)The upright are speedy in their departing from evil –

C)Another Proverb speaking about lust – Can a man take fire into his bosom and not get burned –

1)Rhetorical question - no he can't - doubt that – lighter – press up against your stomach

D)Flee youthful lust – don't play around with it – run from it - Billy D

Your body belongs to Jesus – it is to be used by Jesus – not for sinful practices

A)It is to be used by for the Lord – to bring glory to the Lord

B)Romans 12 – Present your body as a living Sacrifice

1)Ever do that? – today -Lord my body heart soul mind and strength I am presenting to you

C)Wonder what our days would look like if we did that on a daily basis

D)Paul Romans 6 – old man – who we used to be died with Christ

1)Power of the old man – rendered inactive – new power in Jesus

E)So since that is true – Paul said ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. ¹³And do not present your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God.” Romans 6:12-13

SO guardrails – avoid getting swept up into cultural norms Ask ourselves

1. Is it helpful – is it going to help me grow in the Lord – charge me or drain me
2. Will I be dominated by this?
3. Is this going to defile God's temple?

Two more real quick

#4 Will it further the gospel?

¹⁹For though I am free from all *men*, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; ²⁰and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those *who are* under the law, as under the law, that I might win those *who are* under the law;

²¹to those *who are* without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those *who are* without law; ²²to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some. ²³Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with *you*. 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

#5 Is it going to bring God Glory?

³¹Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Lord I want to glorify you with my life – is this going to accomplish that?