

“We Are Bought With a Price!”

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

Intro. – Want to begin this morning by illustrating we simply are not our own. A good means to do this is with young couples (boy and girl) and the romance that accompanies these budding relationships:

Young woman resigned from reception job and married a wealthy oil tycoon. “He’s the man I’ve always dreamed would come along and win me,” she confided to her girl friends. “He’s tall, dark – and has some.”

“Mom,” asked the teenage daughter, “What’s the name of the boy I met on vacation last year?” “Which one, dear?” the mother responded. “You know, the one I couldn’t live without,” answered the daughter.

One convict informed his cellmate that the warden’s daughter had just married one of their fellow cons who was serving a life sentence. Cellmate responded, “Well, how did the warden react to that?” Convict answered, “Well, he was a bit upset especially when he found out they had eloped.”

Young man been dating young lady several years took her to a Chinese restaurant. Studying the menu, he asked, “How would you like your rice – fried or boiled?” Looking him straight in the eye she said, “Thrown!”

Above the ruins old Corinth is a 2000 foot mountain fortress called Acrocorinth. In Paul’s day, the temple of Aphrodite was located at the top of this summit. It was here on a daily basis, as many as a thousand “priestesses” conducted their immoral activities in the worship of this pagan deity. It has been said that these “hospitable ladies” would come into the city of Corinth wearing specially designed sandals that would leave the following imprint in the sand: *follow me*. Many Corinthians and visiting men accepted that bold invitation.

With all this in mind, now take note with me that in our text, the inspired Apostle has introduced a “touchy” subject – the matter of adultery/fornication. Notice, he does not hide this sin with any delicacy.

Our text then is God’s counsel for His people. They are to flee fornication and adultery. It is a dark contrast to the very indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are described as sacred shrines. It should be unthinkable to profane them in such a manner. Paul casts this sin at the foot of the cross and cries: *“You have been bought with a price!”* Paul sheds light upon the function of the Law of Moses now lays down the doctrine of holiness for God’s own.

Purpose: to see what results in our realizing we have been bought with a price

Three matters from this text to accomplish this purpose: 1) Happy Fact 2) Plain Consequence 3) Natural Conclusion:

I A HAPPY FACT (“...You are bought with a price...”)

- consider your former condition... remember what God has done for you and me!...
- how then were we bought? – with a price!

A. Bought With a Price

1. Bought suggests a price but with a price being added – shows how great the cost involved...
2. 1 Peter 1:18,19 *“For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.”*
3. We have been bought in the sense Jesus paid for the punishment of our sins...

B. This is a Well-Accepted Fact

1. Every saint of God ought to know this fact – the question is do you own up to it?
2. We all must – in order to do this we must “live the life”
 - a. Francis of Assisi “Preach the gospel to all the world, and if necessary, use words.”
 - b. Michael W. Smith – “Live the Life”

“Live the Life”

Chorus: For the world to know the truth,
There can be no greater proof,
Than to live the life; live the life.
There’s no love that’s quite as pure

There's no pain we can't endure,
If we live the life, live the life
Be a light for all to see,
For every act of love will set you free.

3. You can't cast off the responsibility of holiness and retain the blessings of redemption!

C. It is the Most Important Fact of History

1. Many changes/experiences fill your life... but most vital memory ought be "I've been redeemed"
2. Yes, be a man, a lady, a patriot, educated, cultured, talented, respected... but most of all be reconciled to God!!
3. The earthly gains/losses, sickness and health will be forgotten in heaven! The one great memory will be that you were bought with a price! Romans 8:18 *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*
4. Trace at His Table how far He came for you: start in heaven... birth... childhood... ministry... Gethsemane... Golgotha... empty tomb...

Never forget this happy fact – "We (you and me) are bought with a price!"

II A PLAIN CONSEQUENCE ("...You Are Not Your Own...")

- there is a negative aspect and a positive aspect at this part in our text:

A. The Negative Aspect ("*You are not your own...*")

1. This is a most important and good thing. Why? When we were "our own" we were adrift like an abandoned ship. We now are as a ship that belongs and is under the direction of the Captain.
 - a. there is no ruler so tyrannical as *self* – self rule always becomes Satan-rule!
 - b. rejoice you are not your own – "in Christ" you've been delivered from self unto X = grace!
2. We have no right then to be *careless* with our lives/bodies:
 - a. honest man will be more careful with that which is borrowed than if it were his own...
 - b. our lives and bodies are on loan – how then can we trifle with them?
3. We have no right to waste our lives/bodies:
 - a. Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*
 - b. time, talents and treasures are all the same here...
 - c. we are saved in order to be found as trustworthy stewards

B. The Positive Aspect

- We are under God's sovereignty... and should count ourselves free only to do His bidding... to live unto His glory and to do His bidding... to live within the confines of His order!

These are the plain consequences from our being bought with a price!

III A NATURAL CONCLUSION ("...Therefore, Glorify Him...")

A. Do It By Chastity

1. Be true to yourself – keep yourself pure for the sake of God Whom is your Savior
2. Be true to your mate – keep your marriage in the arena God intended marriage to be...
3. Ephesians 5:11 *"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them."*

B. Do It By Temperance

1. Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*
2. Make every act/action an act of worship before God! "Praise Him, Praise Him, Jesus our Blessed Redeemer..." Fanny J. Crosby...

C. Do It By Industry

1. Your legs carry you to work. Can they not do the same in service/worship to the Lord?
2. Your eyes see plenty of TV. Can they not be put to work in reading/studying the Word?
3. Your ears do plenty of listening to that what you want to hear. Can't they be used to listen to Him?
 - Colossians 3:23-24 *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."*

The message is clear – put your body to work for the Lord instead of for yourself!

Conclusion: Ownership arouses curiosity. Let me illustrate 4 historical artifacts... can you identify them?

God owns us as His and as we own up to belonging to Him, the world will take note. Thus, the world has a right to expect something better out of us because of what we profess to be and have... We are to be lights shining in a world darkened by its own evil and wickedness. Lights are to be looked at upon, set on a candlestick like a city set on a hill. We are to be soldiers, under the banner of the cross, fearless and brave always attacking the foe. In this, we are to rejoice in those who take note of our shortcomings. They may do more good than we realize. They are like sheepdogs nipping at the heels of God's flock, keeping them in the fold. Take note of all these matters and let them be a constant reminder to you and me that we have been bought with a price!!!