

LAWFUL BUT NOT EXPEDIENT

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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God bless you!

Topic:

LAWFUL BUT NOT EXPEDIENT

Bible Text: **1 Corinthians 6:12-13**

Prayer

Heavenly father, we glorify your name for all you have done and all you will do. Lord Jesus, take the glory as we learn at your feet tonight and may your mercy speak for us as we listen in Jesus mighty name.

Bible Text

1 Corinthians 6:12-13

1Cor.6.12 - All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1Cor.6.13 - Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

Study

I welcome you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cor.6.12 - All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

1Cor.6.13 - Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body.

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient. Paul, in this portion of his letter to the Corinthian church, made something known. It is possible that many or some of the Corinthians claimed liberty to do anything since they have given their lives to Christ. It's most likely that they claimed to be free

since the Lord has made them free. John 8:36 KJV "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Therefore, Paul says, if you say that you are allowed to do anything, it is not everything that is good for you. And even though you are allowed to do anything, you must not become a slave to anything. As children of God today, there are many things that we can engage in which might be lawful but can easily bring us under bondage, making us slaves. The solution is simply to look at what is to be done. If it is helpful or not before doing them, we must think deeply and ask these questions:

1. Is it helpful to me?
2. Is it good for me?
3. Is it wise of me?
4. Is it profitable when considered with other things?

If any of the answers is "no", then you should not do it. For example, you may say that it is lawful for you to see worldly films. Now, is it helpful to you? You can say yes, but is it good for you? Everything in a worldly film cannot be good for you. Is it wise of you? If it is wise of you, it will not lead you to sin. Is it profitable when considered with your spiritual growth and stand in Christ? If your answer is no, then you do not need it.

You may say that it is lawful for you to enter a relationship. Now the question is: Is this relationship helpful to you? Is it good for you? Is it wise of you? Is it profitable when compared to when you are not in any relationship? A boyfriend/girlfriend or extramarital relationship may seem helpful to you, but is it good for you? It might even seem good for you, but is it wise of you? Certainly not, because the day you would be caught, it will bring sorrow and embarrassment. Therefore, the endpoint of it is what would determine if it is wise of you. Now, is it profitable to you? If what is sinful is the profit you make from it, then it is not profitable to you in the real sense, so you need to forsake it. There

are times that some jobs can be lawful for you, but you just have to follow this guideline and know if you are to drop them or not. It might be lawful for you to sell alcoholic drinks, but is it helpful to you and is it good to you (in your sight as a child of God)? Is it wise of you? And is it profitable not only to you this time but also to others? Fix in other things you find lawful into this guideline and see how many things you need to forgo for Christ's sake. If there is anyone you cannot let go, then you have become a slave under it. "I will not be brought under the power of any," Paul says.

1 Corinthians 10:23 KJV "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." Paul says, all things are lawful for him, but not all things edify. When talking about edification, it is talking about the things helpful to the spirit man and not the body only. This is why bodily exercise profits little. **1 Timothy 4:8 KJV** "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having a promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." Godliness is a spiritual thing, so it profits more than physical exercise. This is why it should be chosen above that of the physical.

Then he came to the aspect of food. **1 Corinthians 6:13 KJV** "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." Paul says food for the belly, belly for food, all will come to an end one day.

From this, he makes it plain that no matter how much priority is given to anything physical, it will surely come to an end someday. From this, Paul is saying we must not give so much concern and importance to what is eaten or drunk to the point that we become drunkards and gluttons; by this, we would be bringing ourselves under its power, for everything will come to

an end someday. This is why we must take caution when we see that we are getting controlled by our fleshly appetite. For if we are held gripped under this appetite, which would be destroyed someday, where will our soul be? Which it has caused to sin. Then he goes further to clarify some things, and most especially what was the order of the day in the church at Corinth. **1 Corinthians 6:13 KJV** "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body." It is possible that some took their liberty in Christ as an avenue to eat things sacrificed to idols and commit fornication.

Therefore, he began to tell them, saying now the body is not meant for fornication. With the word "now," we can deduce that in times past they fornicated with their bodies because the civil laws of the Corinth permitted it. But now they are no longer expected to walk in such ways anymore because their bodies are now for the Lord. This means that it does not matter how long you fornicated or how many people you have fornicated with in the past before coming to the Lord. What matters is your current state, now! Now that you are saved, your body is for the Lord and no longer to be used for sexual immoralities.

Some of the Corinthians must have thought that all things are lawful for them, even to the case of fornication. But Paul quickly wrote to oppose them, saying to them that many things lawful in themselves are not expedient at certain times and under particular circumstances. And Christians should not barely consider what is in itself lawful to be done, but what is fit for them to do, considering their profession, character, relations, and hopes. We must be careful not to take our liberty in Christ too far to the point that we would be brought under bondage either to a crafty deceiver or a carnal inclination.

I have heard someone who said those who are caught on the bed of fornication on the day of rapture would go with the Lord. This set of people have taken their maxim too far and have brought themselves under bondage. The body is not intended for fornication but for the Lord to save it, sanctify it, and raise it again. God's intention for our bodies is for it to be holy and habitable. **1 Corinthians 6:19 KJV** "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

Before we came to Christ, the Holy Spirit was absent in our bodies. But when we accepted Christ, He came in and dwells in us. Therefore, the moment we commit sexual immoralities with our bodies, at that point, we subject the Spirit of Christ into doing the works of pollution. And since the Holy Spirit is holy, He would rather give way than for each to be joined to the body of a harlot. **1 Corinthians 6:15-16 KJV** "Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to a harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh."

Many have joined their bodies with that of a harlot and have become one with her. The two shall become one. **1 Corinthians 6:17 KJV** "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." Which means if one sleeps with three people, such is joined to the three. If one sleeps with ten people, one with ten. So how many people have you fornicated with now? You have put part of you in them all. If you do not quickly repent and seek deliverance. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one with Him. Such does not join himself with anyone in fornication, adultery or through incest. Therefore, Paul says, **1 Corinthians 6:18 KJV** "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."

We must run away from every form of immorality with terror. This is because every other sin might be external, even gluttony and drunkenness, but fornication involves the use of the body, which is God's temple. It is all about joining oneself with another by giving one's power to another during the act, and by this, the Holy Spirit becomes uncomfortable. This is why one must flee from it in every way, for it is a sin committed against one's body. For the body has full involvement in it. And since we are not ourselves, but God's, we must glorify him through our bodies. For immoralities do not glorify God in any way.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 KJV "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Both the body and the spirit are for the Lord and must be used for His glory alone. Now, make a reflection of your life, what are the things you do which do not give God the glory, though they are lawful but are they expedient.?

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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