

"but we love each other"

1 Corinthians 6:15-16 says **"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 an HARLOT? God forbid. What? know ye not that he which is joined to an HARLOT is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh."**

I am well aware that Paul was a spiritual man and was chiefly concerned with spiritual things. My aim was to show us how spiritual our bodies are when we are consecrated as redeemed vessels for Christ. It is clear that we are fleshly creatures that are fully equipped to live in this natural world. It is also clear that our bodies and minds will be changed when the Lord returns for us. What is generally misunderstood is that our bodies, though flesh, are made holy (cleansed and set apart for specific Godly use) by the Spirit of Christ and the Blood of the Lamb. Paul was trying to get the Corinthian believers to understand that salvation was not simply about a big house in heaven or about making excuses for sin. He wanted them to be aware that this privilege of everlasting life has a price tag called crucifixion of self. The flesh is not true bone and cartilage anymore than the biblical heart is a four chambered muscle that acts as a pump for blood. Flesh is a carnal mind and a desire for the things of this world. Matthew 16:23-24 23 states **"But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, SATAN: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."**

One of the desires of the believer is a spiritual lifestyle but that first comes with crucifying the carnal mind. When we desire the things of this evil world in our minds it is still possible to want to serve God in our hearts but excellence is hard and truly pleasing God is impossible. Peter wanted to serve God in many ways but Christ revealed to him that he was carnal in his mind and his actions were of the devil. He was operating in self which seemed so natural and right but was totally motivated by human love and carnal friendship. *He was a snare and still felt good about it.* We know that as a man thinks in his heart so is the man. Fornication seems like such an overt physical act that is a physical sin that only has physical consequences. On the contrary, this is indeed a very spiritual injury and has spiritual consequences that are not imagined. Human sexuality is not the union of two sweating brute beasts. We are fearfully and wonderfully made with divine purpose and insight. Our friends and confidants are chosen with the best of care. We choose our cars to fit our personalities and lifestyles and even take hours picking clothes to cover our bodies. Yet, for some reason, we choose partners to share in intimacy with exact care we take to select a doughnut. The only decision is either glazed or sprinkles. What we do not realize is that we are imparting and receiving spirits from whom we were joined with. We are in essence entering a spiritual relationship, a marital union, without oftentimes knowing the spirit we are joining with or even the real name of this spouse. Not only are we damaging ourselves but are taking our freshly cleaned vessel that belongs to God and placing it in places and operations that it was not intended for.

The body was not designed for sex but for love. Sex was not the purpose of man or his parts. We serve a God of intimacy and relationship and that is what our bodies were designed to do. As we were called to love one God and to serve Him only, it is the same with our bodies. A Bic lighter can be used for cooking but it was not designed for that purpose and that action will eventually extinguish the lighter before its time. It will be empty and thrown away when it was supposed to have a much longer shelf life if used properly. We have a dying generation that is becoming more like harlots because fornication is rampant. The devil is imparting a spirit of lust and lasciviousness through fornication. God is seeking a Holy generation of priests and not pimps. Lifting up holy hands is a requirement of those who love the Lord. *Where have your hands been? Make a commitment to get washed and sanctify yourself. Ask Christ to keep you from the hour of temptation. He can and He will.*