

We Are Not Slaves

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Using our bodies for activities that bring us into spiritual or behavioral bondage is not suitable use in God's opinion. Remember, sin is not what you think it is; it's what He thinks it is!

The phrase Paul used, "inheriting the kingdom of God," is not just talking about "going to Heaven". It is talking about both walking in His life and power and authority now, here on the earth, and later, when our physical bodies have died or changed. Having an inheritance in His kingdom includes receiving and acknowledging Who He is, and who we are based on our relationship with Him. We could be the nephew of the King of Jordan, and not enjoy the benefits of our position. If we do not acknowledge who we are and exercise the power He has invested in us, we are denying our inheritance. Note:

1 Corinthians 6:

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.

¹² All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 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.

We are able to withstand our fleshly lusts. The power to overcome the temptations and distractions is available over and over. The path to the freedom is walking in His Spirit. Look at the sins mentioned as works of our flesh in Galatians 5:

Galatians 5:

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Just so we don't feel like all of that awful stuff can't be talking about us, nice as we are, look at this statement by Jesus - part of what some call the "sermon on the mount":

Matthew 5:

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ "But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

So, just allowing sin into my heart makes me guilty of it with regard to God's perspective. I cannot even daydream about having sex with a person I know or a person in a picture or movie without actually, really, committing adultery (if I am married) or fornication (if I am not married) or whatever term describing sexual immorality is appropriate.

The "guilt" is related to my responsibility for my soul and flesh. My spirit is born of God, and cannot sin. That's what John wrote in his first letter that made it into the Bible. 1 John 3:9. My spirit is born OF God, so it has His nature. My flesh was born of my mother, so it has Adam's nature. My soul is made up of my emotions and my will and mind. It happens because my spirit was attached inside my particular body. Paul wrote in the 7th chapter of his letter to Rome about the sin he was describing there, "But it is not I who do it, but sin that lives in my flesh." My spirit is *who* I am, and my flesh is *where* I am.

I am not doomed to the bondage of sin in my flesh. I can be free, if I allow the Holy Spirit of God freedom in my mind and heart to manifest (that means "reveal" or "uncover" or "make known") His fruit:

Galatians 5:

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

So, I need to learn what the list of the fruit of His Spirit is, and ask for forgiveness anytime I see a manifestation of the works of my flesh (even if it is just in my mind or heart, not really in my flesh) that ends up being sin. I need to agree with Him that it is sin and ask for forgiveness and deliverance. I also need to ask for His fruit to be manifested in me instead! I need peace, and patience, and self-control. He wants me to have it worse than I want it, so the least leaning in my heart toward wanting it too will allow Him to work it in my mind and heart and life, and I will be Free!

Staying free from destructive or enslaving habits usually requires replacing the old habits with new ones that bring Life. New habits that put me in a position or a condition in which the Spirit of God can influence me and impart Life to me are the kind of habits I need to develop on purpose! Ways of spending my time that keep my mind on the values that things and activities have in the Kingdom of Heaven have to become my favorites.

Don't lose sight of the value of your inheritance!