

Do you not know ...

1 Corinthians 6, 19-20.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”

In this book of 1 Corinthians in three chapters the apostle Paul ask the same question: ‘Do you not know’. 8 times in that chapters he ask that question. Do you not know. 6 times Paul says ‘don’t be ignorant’. God wants us to know the Word of God. And if we don’t know the Word of God then we’ll have great problems in our life. In fact the Lord Jesus said ‘you are easily deceived because you don’t know the Scripture’. And he said ‘when you don’t know the Scripture you don’t know the power of God’. So the Lord Jesus equated the Scripture with the power of God. And we need to understand that. God does not want us to be ignorant of things of God. And so Paul continuously ask this question ‘Do you not know’. God want us to know the truth that set us free. Over and over again the Bible says ‘that you may know, that you may know, that you may know’. The prophet Jeremiah said ‘Let not the rich man boast in his riches, Let not the mighty man boast in his might, Let not the strong man boast in his strength’. But he said ‘If you are going to boast, boast in this that you know God and understand who He is’. So he has written His Word to we may know. 3 times the Scripture tells us that we don’t live by bread alone. But we live by every Word that comes from the mouth of God. But you have to know what those words are if you are going to live by those words. So it’s essential to know and understand the Scripture. And so Paul tells us in those two verses. There are three things that he wanted the church to know. And the same three things God wants the church today to know. The very first thing that the apostle Paul says that we should know is God’s ownership, God’s possession of our lives. Listen to the Scripture again, he said: *know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit of God, and that’s Spirit is within you, you received this from God, you are not your own. You have been bought with the price. Glorify God with your body and Spirit which both belong to God.* Do you understand that you and I own nothing? The Scripture says that Earth it’s Lord’s and everything in it belongs to Him. You and I own nothing. It’s interesting that writers of Old Testament often referred to themselves as slaves, servants of God. Slave owns nothing. He has no freedoms to do his own will. He has only one right and that’s to be obedient to his master. The apostle Paul said we were once slaves to sin but now we are slaves to righteousness. Slave owns nothing. The only right he has is to be obedient to his master. Because he has been bought with the price. I think God’s people need to understand this. The apostle Paul said ‘*it’s not I who lives here but it’s Christ who lives now in me*’. We own nothing. Our body and our spirit both belong to God. God owns everything.

Years ago I was just the young preacher. God was dealing with me about this. He was talking to me about this business of him owning everything. So one morning I drove into my driveway in my home. I drove up to my house. I always carry a notepad and pen with me wherever I go and so I began to make a list of everything I called mine. My home, my family, my ministry, my automobile, my clothes, my book and my library. Everything that I called mine I put on the list. And God said now *I want you to take every one of those thing and give them to me*’ he said *I’m the rightful owner of all of those*

things'. And see, when I did that it relieved me from a lot of pressure. If we understand that we own nothing, that we don't have to worry all the time about taking care of all that stuff. You need to understand, God can take care of His stuff. And He wants us to know. We own nothing. And why we own nothing? Because we have been bought with the price. The apostle Peter told what that price was. Since we haven't been bought with silver and gold. We have been bought with precious blood of Jesus. We have been bought and paid for.

One time there was a little boy. This boy liked to build small model boats and he worked on this little boat for a long time. When he finished this little boat he wanted to see if it would flow on the water. So he took it down to little lake that was close to his home. He put that little boat on the water. And he was so proud as he watched it flowed. But all of those sudden the wind came up and blew the little boat away from him. And the wind carried the boat further and further away from him, until finally he could not see the boat any longer. He was very sad and a while, one day he was walking down the street, and as he passed the shop he noticed in the window his little boat. He went inside and told the owner of the shop *that's my boat in the window*. And the man said *Well, I paid good money for the boat, you'll have to give me the money if you get your boat back*. So this little boy begun to save this money. He finally had the amount of money that the man said he would have to have. He went down to the shop and gave the man the money, and the man gave him his little boat. And as he was walking out of the shop, out of the place he bought the boat this is what he said *I made you, but I lost you, but I bought you back, I own you twice*. And you know that's God said about us. He said *I made you, I lost you to sin, but I bought you back, I own you twice*. So we have been bought with the precious blood of Jesus. We are not our own. Our body and spirit both belong to God. Everything belongs to God. The very air we breathe belongs to God. Our time belongs to God. The Bible says that our days are in His hands, our past and our future belongs to God. Our mobile phones our laptops belong to God. We own nothings. Because we have been bought with the price. And this is what the apostle Paul was trying to tell this young church in Corinth. He was trying to tell them about God's ownership of their life. And God is still trying to tell us that today. Trying to tell us about his ownership. But there was a second thing that apostle Paul wanted them to know. He was wanting them to know God's presence in us. He said "do you not know that you body is temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you". Who is the Holy Spirit? Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and as the Son is God. In fact the Lord Jesus said "I will go away but I will send the another just like me" and he will lead you in all truth and understanding. The Holy Spirit is God. And that God that Holy Spirit, Paul said lives in us. He said "don't you know this?". Now, what he was talking about when he mentioned the temple of God? He goes back to the Old Testament. David wanted to built God a temple. He didn't get to do that but his son Salomon did built the temple. In the temple there was a place called the Holy of Holies. This is a place where only the high priest could go. And he would only go there just once a year. And the reason he would go there would be the offer up a sacrifice for the sins of Israel. And in the Holy of Holies there was what was called the Ark of the Covenant. In the Ark of the Covenant there were two tablets that have ten commandments. There was a little bowl of something that we call manna that represented how God provided food for His people as they wondered in the wilderness for 40 years.

And there was a third thing in the Ark of the Covenant. Both Aaron and Moses had a rod. And it was Aaron's rod that began to bloom to grow miraculously. And those three things were in the Ark of the

Covenant. Before the priest would ever go in to the Holy of Holies he had to spent weeks preparing his heart to meet with God. And if he went to the Holy of Holies with unconfessed sin in his life, God would strike him dead, God would kill him because sin cannot remain in presence of God. And so Paul says that your body is the temple of the Holy of Holies of God. And I don't know if we really believe that. I think if we really understood that God lives in our bodies, we would live our life differently. Because when God chooses to live here, He's with us 24 hours a day. He said he would never leave us or forsake us. When God lives in us, he knows our thoughts even before we think them, He knows the words before we speak them, He knows our actions before we do them. Because He is here, He is witness of everything we do. He hears what he hear. He sees what we see, he lives here. You cannot get any closer to someone than living inside of that person. We need to understand God's presence in us. And think about this: The Creator of whole universe has chosen to live in us. The one who created the moon, the sun, the stars, the universe lives here, in our heart. And if we really, really believe that I think it will change the way we live our life. As some of you know I travel all round the world telling people about Christ. This month September will be 51 years that I've been preaching the Gospel. And one of the privileges that I have is spending time in people's home. Sometimes I will only stay one night sometimes I may stay 3 or 4 nights in some homes. But whenever people invite me to stay in their home, this is what they often tell me: *Allen we are so glad to have you in our home and we want our home to be your home. So we want to just make yourself at home.* That's sounds good. And I appreciate that but I don't think they really mean what they're saying. Because they don't know how I made myself at home. When I'm at home I can go to any room I want to, I can look to any closet, I can look under any bed that I want to look under, I can open the drawers and see what is in each drawer. I'm privileged to do whatever I want to in my home. And let's say I'm visiting your home. And you have told me to make myself at home. And I say 'well thank you. You're very kind'. And let's say one day you're gone shopping. And I began just walk in the house, I look at the pictures on the wall, I don't like them. So I take the pictures down of the wall. Put them in the closet. If I were in my home and I didn't like the pictures I take them down. You said to make myself at home. And I look at furniture. I don't like the way it's arranged. So I arrange the furniture the way I like. You told me I can make myself at home remember? So you come home after a while and as you look around your mouth falls open. And you say 'where're the pictures I had on my wall? I said I didn't like them. I put them in the closet. And if I were in my home and those pictures were in my wall I take them down. You told me I can make myself at home. Remember? You said that! And then you say 'what you have done with my furniture?' And I say I didn't like the way you had it. Don't you think it looks better now like this. And by this time you're asking yourself what kind of crazy man do I have in my house? You said to make yourself at home but you really didn't mean what you said. And see how we do with God. *God I want you in my life! I'm glad that you save me from my sins! And I'm glad that I don't have to worry about going to hell. But God don't you make any changes in my life! You just stay over there out of the way and if I need you I call for you.* And we don't let God make himself in our life. But remember we have been bought with the price. And because we have been bought with the price God lives in us. And we need to understand that. God wants to be able to make any change that He chooses in our life. But we get upset with God when He start making some changes. Most of us don't like change. Most of us rebel, resign of change that God wants in our life. But remember we have been bought with the price. Our body and our Spirit both belong to God. And we've asking to come and live in our heart. I just don't think most Christian

understand that. Because if God is truly that close to us then why we do continually the things that breaks His heart? *Oh God I'm glad you came to live in my heart but don't make any changes in my life.* He has a right to change anything that He wants, anytime He wants to do it. And we are to be willing to say *God I don't understand but thank you.* You don't have to understand the thing that God does. But we can always trust the heart of God. And we can always believe that He is working all things together for good for those who love Him. And that's the reason that Scripture says *In everything give thanks* and we're giving thank because this is will of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul said *I want you to understand God's ownership of your life.* He said *I want you to understand God's presence in your life.* But there is the third thing that he wanted them to know. And that was God's purpose for their life. Listen to the Scripture again:

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price”.

And he says *now because of that glorify God in your body and in your spirit.* I ask you a question. Why we're here? Why we're at this place tonight? Why do I live in America and you live in Poland? Why we're living at this point in time in history? Why do we even exist? Do you know why? You and I exist for one purpose and for one purpose only. We exist for the purpose of glorifying God. That's why we're here. That's why God created us. The prophet Isaiah wrote these words: *God said: I have created you for my Glory.* Have you ever understood that? I'm not here to please me. I'm not here to make money. I'm not even here to be happy. I'm here and you're here to glorify God. The Lord Jesus said *All things I do, I do to glorify my Father, who is in heaven.* All things, not just some things or most things. He said *all things I do, I do to glorify Father who is in heaven.* And then Jesus turns and says to us *Let your light so shine before the whole world that they may see God working in you and the Father and heaven be glorified.* Isn't it amazing? That's we're here. So many people just don't understand that. And many of those people sitting in church Sunday after Sunday and they don't know why they exist. The apostle Paul said in book of Romans *with one mind and one mouth glorify God.* What your mind thinks your mouth speaks. What your mind thinks your body does. So with one mind and one mouth glorify God. Can I tell you that lying does not glorify God? Hating Brother or Sister does not glorify God. Jealously or concupiscence does not glorify God. To lust after the male or female in our heart does not glorify God. Those things don't glorify God. Gossip does not glorify God. Many of the thing that we're watching at the movies and watching at television does not glorify God. Much of the music we listen to does not glorify God. But yet God said everything you do glorify God. There is a verse in 1 Corinthians in chapter 10, 31. It says *“whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the Glory of God”.* Did you hear what that verse said? Eating or drinking are the most simplest things we do. We sat down at the table, eat and drink and never think twice about it. They very simple, everyday things. And even those little things have to be done to the Glory of God. In fact he said whatever you do! All of it. Not just some of it. Not most of it. He said all of it. Do you understand that? We are here of the purpose of glorifying God. Oh how we need to understand that! If that really got in to our heart I believe it will transform our life, will change our life forever. If we truly understood that everything we do is to be done to glorify God.

As I said I have privilege to travel all round the world. And as I travel a lot of countries I come to know lots of young people. And they become very close to my heart. And there is young couple in Hungary

that I became very close to. Their name is Benjamin and Naomi. And they asked me if I would speak on their wedding in Hungary. And I told them that if I was going to be on their country on that time I would be honored to do so. So happened to be and I was able to do it. But before they got married they were engaged to be married. They wrote me one day. They both students the University of Budapest. They wrote and said *Allen, we live where there is not many true believers. They're very immoral, they do just anything they want to do. And they know that we're engaged to be married but they telling us that's okay to have sex before we get married. They say marriage is nothing you can have sex with ever you want to have it. And we want to know what God says about that.* So I sent them a verse from the Scripture. 1Corinthians 10,31.

“Whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

And I said I want you to read that until you can say it from memory. I said I want you to learned that verse that you write me back again. So we began to write back in front of computer. I asked *did you learn the verse? Yes, we learned.* I said *what it is say? I have a question for you. Can you have sex outside of marriage to the glory of God?* And they say *of course not.* I sent another verse of Book of Colossians 3, 17 it says:

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord(…)”

I said *can you have sex outside of marriage in the name of the Lord?* They said *of course not.* So there is nothing left to say. You told me you wanted to live by the Word of God. And God tells us to live by every word that comes from His mouth. When Christians ask me if they can go here or there, can they do this or that. I just simply say go read 1Corinthians 10,31. That's the standard. If we were created to bring glory to God that whatever we do, we do it to the glory of God. So now we have to ask ourselves very personal question. The Bible say to search our hearts, to look in our hearts and see if there be any wicked way in our heart, any ungodly way, any evil way in our heart. The Psalm says let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart, let them bring the honor to you oh God. It says may my words and my thoughts be exactable in your sight. And a lot of us don't want God to search our hearts because we're afraid of what He might find. And if He finds those things that are unexcitable then we have to make a decision what would we do. And we will either continue to do those things or we will say God I can't let that be in my life. So everything about our life is to bring glory to God. And if God shows us some things that do not bring Him glory then the question is what we gonna do about it? Will just gonna ignore it and hope it just disappears? Or we gonna let God take it out and replace it with that which can bring glory to Him. I get really tired of listening of Christians who tell me how much they love the Lord. But when it comes to living by the words of Bible they say they don't have desire to do so. And the Lord Jesus said this words: *If you love me, you will do the things I asked you to do.* He wants us to take those things that bring God no glory and get them out of our life. We have to choose to do that. God won't take anything out of our life that we don't give to Him to take away.

Do you understand that God owns our life? God lives in his presence in our life. His purpose for us is to bring glory to God through our life. And we have things in our life that bring Him no glory, do we love Him enough to give those things to Him, let Him take them out of our life? And replace them with things that can bring glory?

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