

“Discussing and Debating Life”

1Corinthians 6:12-19

April 28, 2019

“At some point and in multiple categories, we are going to find ourselves ‘Discussing and Debating Life’ ...as was the apostle Paul in 1Cor. 6:12-19...”

When a person falls into convulsions, short-term remedies may for the moment calm him down, but the long-term need is to diagnose the root cause of his trouble and treat that. So it is today with churches round the world, ...Tensions over the question between and within provinces, dioceses, and congregations have become acute, and there is no end in sight. What, we ask, is the root cause of these convulsions? What would be needed to get us beyond them?

*...The chapters included in the book are ventures in adult catechesis, furnishing the mind and forming the judgment regarding key truths that are often challenged today. ... As an Anglican, I write with a sense of urgency in response to recent trends in my own church context. But readers who are not Anglicans will recognize many of the same trends in their own denominational circles, and may find that this book speaks pointedly to their situations, challenges, and concerns.” Packer, J. I.. *Taking God Seriously: Vital Things We Need to Know* . Crossway 2013. Kindle Edition.*

...Paul is about to do what each of us will do on a regular basis—have a conversation/debate with pop-culture

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³ “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food”—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ And God raised 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 prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as

it is written, "The two will become one flesh."¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Cultural Hot Topic: "Sexual Immorality" ...being supported by **the 'Street-Talk-Phrases'** of "All things are lawful for me" or "Everything is permissible" (HCSB) or "I have the right to do anything" (NIV) or "I have authority over" (Hendricks & Kistemaker) and "Food is for the stomach and the stomach for food"

...Cult Prostitution was a Common & Accepted part of Greco-Roman Life
...Similarly, Israel had this problem among the Canaanites...

Hosea 4:13-14 They sacrifice on the tops of the mountains and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar, and terebinth, because their shade is good. Therefore your daughters play the whore, and your brides commit adultery.¹⁴ I will not punish your daughters when they play the whore, nor your brides when they commit adultery; for the men themselves go aside with prostitutes and sacrifice with cult prostitutes, and a people without understanding shall come to ruin.

Answering/Debating Life with Principles/Truths

NOTICE: When Paul Goes to Answer the Current/Trendy Issues of Life—He pulls out His Systematic Theology Book!!

- ¹² **"All things are LAWFUL for me"**
 - New Cov. Vs Old Cov. Theology
- ¹² **"...but I will not be DOMINATED by anything"** ...Paul points out a Biblical Reality about 'the Doctrine of Dominance' — "Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!¹⁶ Do you not know that if

you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?" Rom 6:15-16

- Doctrine of Depravity & the Fall
- ***"¹³...God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality" ... "food is for the stomach and the stomach for food" = "sex is for the body and the body for sex"***
 - Doctrine of Creation and the Authority of God
- ***"¹⁶ do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." ...¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.***
 - Doctrine of Human Sexuality & Marriage
- ***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 prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ...¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?***
 - Doctrine of Christian Identity
- ***¹³ ...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ... ¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?***
 - Doctrine of the Indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit

- ¹³ *...The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.* ¹⁴ *And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.* ¹⁵ *Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?*
 - The Doctrine of Future Glorification

- ¹⁹ *...You are not your own,* ²⁰ *for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.*
 - The Doctrine of the Lordship of Christ ...
 - The Doctrine of the Glorifying of God ... "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him." Col 1:16 "whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1Cor 10:31

Who needs doctrine? You do; I do; we all do. Everybody needs doctrine if he or she is ever to know God. Granted, most people are aware that some sort of Supreme Being exists, but nobody comes to know him relationally without first learning key facts about him—who and what he is and what he has done, is doing, and will do—and for this we need doctrine. Doctrine is the map that guides us on our cross-country journeying through the thousand-odd pages of the Bible, on the one hand, and the complexities of godly living, on the other. Doctrine is the spectacles through which we discern the stepping-stones across the rapids and through the swamps that keep our feet on the path of life. Doctrine, indeed, is the surgical cure for the natural spiritual blindness that otherwise makes it impossible for us to find where the path of life begins. Doctrine is the data about the Lord Jesus Christ that makes faith in him possible. And then doctrine becomes, so to speak, the cookbook for life, giving the correct recipe for each venture in belief and behavior. Packer, J. I.. Taking God Seriously: Vital Things We Need to Know . Crossway. Kindle loc 440

...Paul brings the weight of 8 relevant truths to bear on WHY one lives a certain way in this aspect of their lives.

...Whether we are Paul discussing/debating a current topic or Hosea prophesying into current culture or J.I. Packer addressing the hot topic of our day—the Ground from Which We Speak is the Knowledge of the Word of God!!
...There are "Vital Things that we Need to Know"!!