



## Part 5: Loving Sex

For Paul there is to be the closest possible relationship between the experience of grace and one's behaviour that evidences that experience of grace.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

This passage is a foundational, definitional declaration of who believers are; it gathers together so much of what Paul has written to the Corinthians earlier in the letter and lays the ground for all that he will write to them subsequently.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

Paul's anthropology, his understanding of human nature, emerges here: All people are dependent on some being or something beyond themselves to give them meaning and significance. So for Paul the issue is not whether one has a lord or not. At stake is what lord one will have.

-- J. Paul Sampley, *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*

Paul counters arrogant Corinthian claims to masterful independence with the ironic assertion that their supposed freedom will actually lead to a form of bondage!

-- D. A. Carson, *The Pillar New Testament Commentary*

You may say "all things are lawful" because you do not live under the law and have free will and your judgment is independent. But it is not beneficial to use your liberty in every case. When you do something wicked, you renounce your authority and become a slave of sin.

-- Theodoret, Bishop of Cyprus (393-460 AD)

Freedom is not to be free for self but for others. The real question is not whether an action is "lawful" or "all right," but whether it is good, whether it benefits. Truly Christian conduct is not predicated on whether I have the right to do something, but whether my conduct is helpful to those about me.

-- Gordon D. Fee, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament*

Paul believes that more than a physical coupling happens when one has sexual intercourse with a prostitute. There is also a spiritual bonding.

-- Ben Witherington III, *Conflict & Community In Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary*

Christians belong to Christ both physically and spiritually. Believers make up Christ's body here on earth, and our physical bodies are as much part of his body as our souls. So when we indulge in sexual immorality, it is as if we are making Christ commit immoral acts!

-- Dacholom Datiri, *Africa Bible Commentary*

When faced with sexual temptation there is no virtue, no wisdom, in staying around to argue with it or trying to battle against it. You should cut and run.

-- N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone*

**Flee from sexual immorality.**

**-- The Apostle Paul**