

FUTURE CHURCH



A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE
CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

A Community of Holiness in a Culture of Moral Relativism

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

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Moral Relativism: There is no such thing as universal right or wrong. Individuals and cultures are free to form their own moral truths, and those truths are always correct, because there are no objective moral truths to compare them to.

Moral Relativism = Moral Confusion

“People in wealthy Western democracies today could not simply remain the first people in recorded history to have absolutely no explanation for what we are doing here, and no story to give life purpose.”

- Douglas Murray, *The Madness of Crowds*

One-ism vs. Two-ism

Romans 1:25

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

“Be holy as I am holy.”

1 Corinthians 6:12

“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but I will not be mastered by anything.

1 Corinthians 6:13

You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.”

1 Corinthians 6:13-17

The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, “The two will become one flesh.” But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee from sexual immorality.

1 Corinthians 6:18

All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. Do you not know that your bodies are temples 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 bodies.

“The Christian sex ethic was revolutionary. It introduced the very idea of consent in sex, and it made sex not about self-fulfillment (which always privileges those with more power) but about creating lasting community that reflects God’s relationship to us. This is a higher, not lower, view of sex... modern culture’s sexual logic—that sex is for self-fulfillment and self-realization—ultimately depersonalizes and objectifies because it ultimately turns sex into a consumer good rather than as a means to nurture a bond of covenant. It leads to fractured community and the decline of marriage and the family. Sex outside of marriage is ultimately transactional and so it cannot finally be intimate.”

- Tim Keller

“Underneath the pop and fizzle of sexological enthusiasm lies a fundamental despair — not necessarily about life itself, but about the body. This seems counterintuitive: surely, the sexual revolution is about the celebration of the body over and against the pretense that love ends below your neck. Yet beneath all the pageantry of free sex and self-love, there is a fundamental believe that the body doesn’t mean anything, that it is insignificant in a literal sense: signifying nothing. You can do anything that you like with it, you can pleasure it with a vacuum cleaner or get a drunken stranger in an alleyway to whip it, and you can give it away to anyone for any reason. It’s just a sort of wet machine, a tool that you can use and exchange for whatever purpose suits your fancy. In order to believe this, you must either accept a) that your body is not you, it is just a shell, or a juicy robot, that the real you — the disembodied ghost —

controls, or b) that there is no such thing as human value or dignity; it's just a nice pretense that we make because we are terrified of this senseless and nihilistic universe. Ironically, Christianity, which has always been accused of putting God before man, stands alone amongst a host of modern philosophies declaring that man is a unified, complete being, composed of both a mind with a free will, and a body, all of which has dignity and meaning."

- Melinda Selmys, *Sexual Authenticity*

"Honor God with your bodies."

"What Christians do with their sexuality is one of the most important testimonies they give to the surrounding world."

- Nancy Pearcy, *Love Thy Body*

Fasting

"I fear there are now thousands of Methodists, so called, both in England and in Ireland, who, following the same bad example, have entirely left off fasting; who are so far from fasting twice a week... that they do not fast twice in the month!...The man who never fasts is no more in the way to heaven than the man who never prays."

- John Wesley

practicingtheway.org/fasting

1. To starve the flesh and feed the spirit.
2. To amplify our prayers.
3. To stand in solidarity with the poor.