

**The Body is not for *Porneia***  
**(2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)**

**1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20**

[<sup>13</sup>“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 immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.* <sup>14</sup> And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that *your bodies are members of Christ?* [Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.”] <sup>17</sup> But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> *Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body.* <sup>19</sup> Do you not know that *your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you*, which you have from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:13-20)

## 1. Sexual Sin and the Temple of the Body (1 Cor 6:12-20)

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|---------------------------|---|----------|---|--------------------------|
| a. Food                   | → | Stomach  | → | Food                     |
| b. The Body is <i>not</i> | → | Porneia  | → | Marriage? No, “The Lord” |
| c. The Lord               | → | the Body | → | The Lord                 |

## 2. Christ the Bridegroom:

I feel a divine jealousy for you, for *I betrothed you to Christ* to present you as a *pure bride to her one husband*. (2 Cor 11:2)

3. Gravity of Sexual Sin: *desecration* of the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 6:19)

## 4. Lordship of Christ: “You are not your own; you were bought with a price”

**The Living Tradition**

John Chrysostom: *Reverence Him that dwells within. For the Paraclete is He. Thrill before Him that is enfolded and cleaves unto you; for Christ is He.* Have you indeed made yourself members of Christ? Think thus, and continue chaste... Before they were members of a harlot, and Christ has made them members of His own Body. You have therefore henceforth no authority over them. Serve Him that has set you free. (John Chrysostom, *Homilies on 1 Corinthians* 18)

Catechism: *All the baptized are called to chastity.* The Christian has “put on Christ,” the model for all chastity. *All Christ’s faithful are called to lead a chaste life in keeping with their particular states of life.* At the moment of his Baptism, the Christian is pledged to lead his affective life in chastity. “People should cultivate [chastity] in the way that is suited to their state of life. Some profess virginity or consecrated celibacy which enables them to give themselves to God alone with an undivided heart in a remarkable manner.

Others live in the way prescribed for all by the moral law, whether they are married or single.” *Married people are called to live conjugal chastity; others practice chastity in continence.* (CCC 2348-49)

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. How does Paul’s teaching in 1 Corinthians 6 cohere with the Catechism’s teaching that “all the baptized are called to chastity” (CCC 2348). What does “chastity” look like in each particular state of life?

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### For Further Reading

1. St. Thomas Aquinas, *Commentary on the Letters of Saint Paul to the Corinthians* (trans. F. R. Larcher, O.P.; eds. J. Mortensen and E. Alarcón; Lander, WY: Aquinas Institute, 2012).
2. Gerald Bray, ed. *1-2 Corinthians* (Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture, New Testament VI; Downers Grove, IL.: IVP, 1999).
3. George T. Montague, SM, *First Corinthians* (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture; Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010).