

# “The Body Is Not For Sexual Immorality But For the Lord”

Presented by Gregg Harris

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Key Text: 1 Cor. 6:12-14    Key Word: “For the Lord”

**1 Cor. 6:12-14** All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 13 Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. 14 And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

**1 Cor. 6:15** 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 harlot? Certainly not! 16 Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

# Paul is pushing back while being careful not to pull the Corinthians back under the Law.

- **1 Cor. 6:12** “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient”
- **The word expedient in verse 12 comes from the Greek word, *sumpherō*, which means “to make a profit.”**
- **All things may be “lawful,” but they are not all worth the cost.**
- **God will forgive for sexual immorality when we confess it and forsake it, but the cost for that sin in this life will be very high.**
- **Sexual immorality is the one sin that uniquely corrupts the primary purpose for which God has created and redeemed us.**

***Paul is going to dismantle all of the Corinthians arguments and provide clear reasons why it is so “unprofitable” for the believer in Christ to engage in any kind of sexual behavior outside of marriage.***

# Sex is far more than just a physical urge or appetite. It is also spiritual.

**1 Cor. 6:13** Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them.

- **The Corinthians evidently were saying that sex is just like eating. It's a natural appetite, so there is no moral aspect to it.**

“The body's is for food, and food is for the body. In a similar way they thought the body is designed for sex and sex satisfies the body. So, it's just a biological urge.”

- **1 Cor 6:13b** Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.
- **Eating is a natural function, but sex is far more than just a natural function. Sex is also a spiritual union between a man and a woman that transcends its merely physical pleasures.**

***There is something spiritual going on when we have intercourse.***

# The body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

**1 Cor. 6:14** Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. Note: “The body is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.”

- **We have a deep, God-given, desire to know the Lord and to be known by the Lord in the Spirit.**
- **Gen. 4:1 & 4:25** Now Adam **knew** Eve his wife, and she conceived ...
- **The one activity in this life that comes closest to fulfilling our yearning to know and be known is wholesome sexual intimacy.**
- **That is how marriage can be a picture of Christ and His church.**
- **Spiritual intimacy with Christ offers us the only complete satisfaction for our deep yearning to “know and be known.”**

***God’s practical alternative to sexual immorality, whether for a single or a married person, is this spiritual intimacy with Jesus as our Lord.***

# Behold the Mystery!

**Eph. 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” 32 **This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.** 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

***Spiritual intimacy with Christ fulfills the purpose for which we have been created and then redeemed by the sacrifice of our Lord.***

# Our yearning to know God is very real.

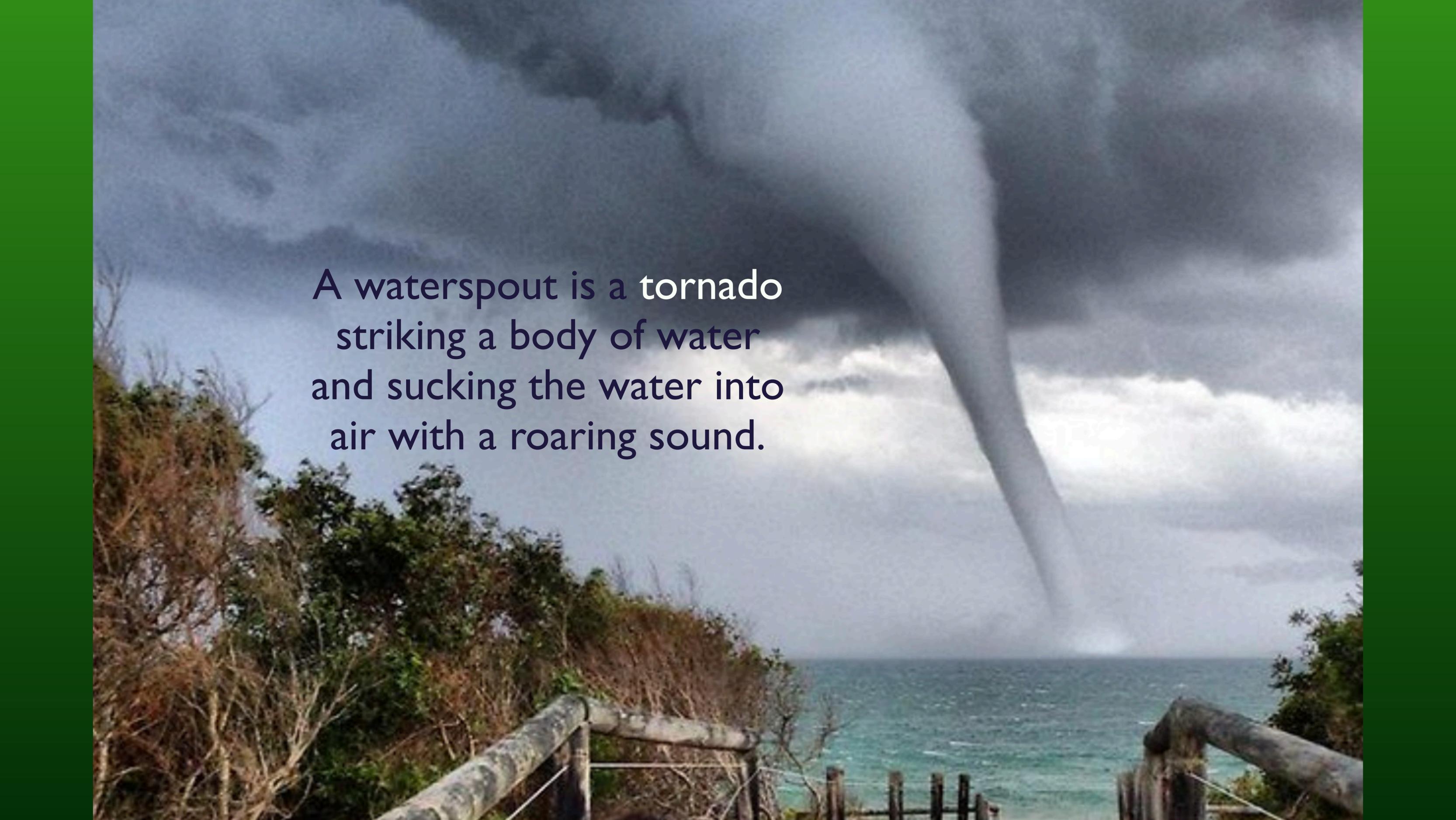
**Psa. 42:5** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. **7 Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls;** all your breakers and your waves have gone over me.

- **Strong's Concordance: 6794b. from an unused word; a pipe, spout, conduit:—water tunnel(I), waterfalls(I).**

**Psa. 42:7** Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me.

***The reference to breakers and waves tells us we are at the ocean, where there is unlikely to be a waterfall.***

***David is referring to this:***

A photograph capturing a dramatic natural phenomenon: a waterspout. A thick, white, funnel-shaped column of water and air descends from a massive, dark, and turbulent storm cloud that dominates the upper half of the frame. The waterspout is positioned on the right side of the image, extending towards the horizon. Below the spout, the ocean's surface is visible, showing some whitecaps. In the foreground, the scene is framed by a wooden railing and dense, somewhat dry-looking vegetation on the left and right sides, suggesting the viewer is on a cliffside or a high vantage point overlooking the sea. The overall atmosphere is one of intense power and danger.

A waterspout is a **tornado** striking a body of water and sucking the water into air with a roaring sound.

As members of the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the church, we are united with Christ.

**1 Cor. 6:14** And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power.

**Eph. 1:22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**1 Cor. 12:12** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

**1 Cor. 13:12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then **I shall know just as I also am known.**

**1 Cor. 6:15** 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 harlot? Certainly not!

***When we commit sexual immorality we join Christ, and the entire body of Christ, to our immoral partner in a way that perverts God's purpose.***

In our next study we will look at Paul's understanding of what exactly happens when we engage in sexual immorality.

**1 Cor. 6:16** Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." 17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

***So, even though sexual immorality is "lawful," now that we are no longer under the law of Moses, it is clearly NOT "profitable" in fulfilling God's purposes in our salvation. So, flee sexual immorality!***

# **And so, I plead with you:**

**2Cor. 13:5** Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

- **Look closely at yourself to see if Christ is truly in you by faith through the Holy Spirit.**
- **Look for evidence of God's grace in your life.**
- **Repent of any sins you are aware of.**
- **Obey Paul's command to "flee sexual immorality."**
- **Let the Holy Spirit draw you into a deep love for God.**

***Let "deep call unto deep" for you to know and be known by the One Who has created you and redeemed you by His blood.***

# Let Us Respond to God!

**Heb. 3:15** “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts...”

- **Let your Elders play their proper part in your Christian life.**

**James 5:13** Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. **14** Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. **15** And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. **16** Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

***Let us pray for one another, and pray with one another in response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit through God’s Word.***