

## Don't Yuck At Someone Else's Yum

Dale DuVerney - Rogers City, MI

One of the lessons we learn as children is that not everybody likes the same things. One child loves broccoli; another cannot stand it. One person enjoys fishing; another cannot imagine anything more boring than sitting beside a lake for hours. Some people enjoy motorcycles, others gardening. Some love old hymns, others enjoy listening to bluegrass. Some would rather spend a vacation at the beach, while others would choose a cabin in the woods. We are different. There is nothing wrong with that. Unfortunately, we sometimes develop the habit of criticizing things simply because they do not appeal to us. There is a modern expression that captures the idea well: "Don't yuck at someone else's yum." In other words, just because something does not bring me joy does not mean I need to diminish the joy it brings to someone else. For Christians, this principle goes much deeper than simple courtesy. It touches upon Christian liberty, brotherly love, humility, the proper use of our conscience, and even our influence upon others.

**REGARD: God Has Not Made Us All Alike.** Romans 14 addresses Christians who had differing convictions concerning matters of personal conscience. We call these convictions "Scruples." Some brethren believed they could eat certain foods while others abstained. Some folks regarded particular days and others did not. Inspiration did not command everyone to develop identical personal preferences. Instead, God commanded them to stop despising and judging one another. Paul wrote: "*Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him*" (Rom. 14:3). Notice that last phrase, it is important: "*God has received him.*" Sometimes we have trouble receiving people whom God has already received. We can begin treating our preferences as though they were God's commandments. Before long, "I don't like that" quietly becomes "You shouldn't like that." Eventually it can even become, "You are sinning because you like that." That is dangerous territory! Certainly, this principle does not apply to sin. God has spoken clearly concerning right and wrong, and Christian liberty does not give us permission to disregard His Word. But where God has allowed liberty, we must be careful not to manufacture laws that God Himself has not made.

---

***"For Christians, this principle goes much deeper than simple courtesy."***

---

**REALIZE: Your Conscience Is Not Somebody Else's Bible.** One of the great dangers in matters of opinion is allowing our conscience to become the standard by which we judge everyone else. Our conscience is important. We should never knowingly violate it. Paul wrote, "*Whatever is not from faith is sin*" (Rom. 14:23). If I genuinely believe something would be wrong for me to do, I should refrain from doing it. But there is an important difference between saying, "My conscience will not allow me to do that," and saying, "Therefore, you are wrong for doing it." **My** conscience governs **me**. God's Word governs us all. That distinction requires humility. There are things Christians may disagree about without disagreeing about the authority of Scripture. We may have different tastes in food, recreation, hobbies, clothing, entertainment, decorating, travel, music outside the worship assembly, and countless other areas of ordinary life. In those areas, we should never use our conscience as somebody else's Bible.

**RESTRANT: You Don't Have to Express Every Opinion.** The book of Proverbs repeatedly warns us about careless words. Solomon warned: "*A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back*" (Pro. 29:11). That is remarkably practical advice. We live in a culture that encourages us to have an opinion about everything and then immediately share it. Social media has made criticism almost effortless. Someone posts a picture of something that made them happy, and within minutes another person feels compelled to explain why they do not like it. But why? Well, not every opinion needs an audience. Sometimes love means keeping an unnecessary criticism to ourselves. Someone shows you the new paint color in their living room. They love it. You hate it. Unless they have asked for your decorating advice, what good is accomplished by saying, "I would never put that color in my house?" Someone is excited about a hobby you find boring. Must you explain why you would never waste your time doing that? We should learn to ask ourselves: "Will what I am about to say add something good to this moment, or am I about to steal someone's joy merely for the privilege of expressing my opinion?"

*continued on page 2...*

**RESPOND: Learn to Share the Joy of Others.** Paul gives us a beautiful Christian principle: *“Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep”* (Rom. 12:15). We usually understand the second half. When someone hurts, Christians should hurt with them. But what about the first half? Can we rejoice simply because someone else is rejoicing? That requires maturity. I suppose we should really learn that someone else’s joy does not have to be my joy before I can share it with them. Perhaps I do not care about the thing they purchased, the hobby they enjoy, the place they visited, the accomplishment they achieved, or the activity that excites them. But I care about them. That changes everything. ***I do not have to love what you love in order to love you.*** Sometimes one of the kindest things we can do is simply smile and say, “I’m glad you enjoy that.”

**REMEMBER: There Is A Real Priority.** Romans 14:17 reminds us: *“For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”* That verse helps put things into perspective. Christians should pursue righteousness. Where God has spoken, we stand firmly upon His Word. Christians should also pursue peace. We should not manufacture conflict where God has not. And Christians should pursue joy. Christianity should not produce people who walk through life looking for opportunities to criticize everybody else. Jesus said His disciples are the *“light of the world”* (Matt. 5:14). Our words, attitudes, and treatment of others either strengthen that light or obscure it. A Christian who is perpetually negative, condescending, judgmental, and critical may technically win arguments while completely destroying his influence. Being “right” about our preferences is not worth becoming unpleasant to everyone around us.

**REFRAIN: Don’t Be a Joy Thief.** There is enough sorrow in this world already. People carry burdens we know nothing about. They face disappointments, grief, loneliness, financial pressures, family problems, illness, and uncertainty. When they find something innocent that gives them a little happiness, why would we want to steal it? There will be times when Christians must stand against sin. There will be occasions when truth requires correction. Love does not mean abandoning conviction. But, as Ecclesiastes 3 bears out, there is a time for every purpose under heaven. There is a time to simply let somebody enjoy something. A time to smile. A time to encourage. A time to rejoice because someone else is rejoicing. And a time to keep unnecessary opinions to ourselves. Before criticizing something another person enjoys, perhaps we should ask: Is this actually wrong - or is it simply not my preference? If it is merely a matter of preference, remember: Don’t yuck at someone else’s yum. Let them have their joy. Better yet, rejoice with them!

## Paul’s Favorite Question - Part 4

Barry O’Dell

**C**ontinuing through Paul’s inspired writings and addressing his *“Do ye not know”* passages, we come to First Corinthians 6 where the question is found six times. The church of God in Corinth was **far** from perfect. Nearly every one of the sixteen chapters introduces to us a new issue that Paul had to address. Immorality was clearly a problem within the congregation and that is what will be tackled first.

***“Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith He, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body”*** (1 Cor. 6:15-18). Imagine writing to a congregation of God’s people and having to deal with this specific sin that was apparently rather common! The sad reality is that sexual sin is extremely prevalent in both the world and the church still! While Christians understand that such behavior will be in the world (1 Cor. 5:9-10), it is hard to believe that children of God participate in such - yet they do. In recent years The Barna Group has reported that 75% of Christian men and 40% of Christian women report consuming sexually explicit material. Also, 22% of “practicing Christians” view pornography weekly, while 7% view it daily. Just as sad, congregations everywhere are impacted regularly by fornication, adultery, and divorce and remarriage among its members.

The Christian’s body is to be offered as a *“living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God”* (Rom. 12:1-2). Paul also wrote, *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that we should abstain from fornication. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor; not in the lust of concupiscence (passion of lust - NKJ), even as the Gentiles which know not God”* (1 Thes. 4:3-5). Christians should be able to control their bodies! That is why Paul asked the Corinthians twice - *“Know ye not?”* The body is for the Lord (1 Cor. 6:13), not fornication. Paul asked them a very pointed question - *“Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of a harlot”* (1 Cor. 6:15)? The sexual union between a man and woman is reserved strictly for marriage. *“Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but fornicators and adulterers God will*

...continued on next page...

*judge*” (Heb. 13:4). Paul appealed all the way back to creation itself and the institution of the home (1 Cor. 6:16). His question to Corinth - “Don’t you know that?!” The Corinthians had heard the gospel, believed it, and been baptized into Christ (Acts 18:8). As such, they were members of His body (1 Cor. 12). In the sin of fornication, a person takes what God has designed for a very specific purpose and uses it for his own temporary pleasure. The phrase “*Flee fornication*” should take our minds back to Genesis 39 and what happened to Joseph. His master’s wife was lusting after him and did everything within her power to get him to lie with her (Gen. 39:6-10). She did this every day to a young, powerful, attractive man! What was his response? When she grabbed his coat, “*he left his garment in her hand, and fled outside*” (Gen. 39:12). Joseph literally had to “*flee fornication!*”

Within the same context, Paul asks a third time: “*What? **Know ye not** that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s*” (1 Cor. 6:19-20). I’ll begin this section by saying this - this will not be a discussion of the “indwelling of the Holy Spirit” in the sense of **how**. Paul simply states what is the case and that is what is to be addressed here. The point Paul is making is - “*ye are not your own.*” One commentator wrote, “*They belonged to the Lord. Therefore, they did not have the liberty to do what they wanted to do with their bodies. Instead, they were obligated to do what the Lord who owned them commanded.*”<sup>1</sup>

The New Testament speaks repeatedly about what Christ purchased with His sacrifice. He purchased the church “*with His own blood*” (Acts 20:28). Peter wrote, “*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*” (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Jesus purchased eternal redemption for us with His blood (Heb. 9:11-14). In view of those truths, our bodies are to be used to glorify God in all we do. Paul also wrote, “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God*” (1 Cor. 10:31).

Think about what Paul wrote of the Corinthians in chapter six. “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Cor. 6:9-10). That is a pretty specific list of sins! The Bible says that all unrighteousness is sin (1 Jn. 5:17). The Corinthians had lived lives of absolute debauchery! Yet, Paul also wrote, “*And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Cor. 6:11). That is a major contrast in realities! They had been washed, like Paul himself, in baptism (Acts 22:16). To be sanctified is to be made holy or consecrated to God (2 Cor. 6:17). To be justified is to be acknowledged as righteous before God. As John wrote, “*He that does righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous*” (1 Jn. 3:7).

---

***“Christians should be able  
to control their bodies!”***

---

In First Corinthians 6, Paul asked his favorite question six times! There are some things that Christians should just know!

#### **Endnotes:**

1. Mike Willis, “A Commentary to Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians,” (Monroe County Press, Tompkinsville, KY, 1979), pg. 204.

**Check out our revamped website!**

**[www.mammothspringchurchofchrist.com](http://www.mammothspringchurchofchrist.com)**

**"Thank You" to all who support the paper financially!**

---

### September/October 2026 Contributors

#### Churches of Christ

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Pilot (Mammoth Spring, AR)      | \$700.00 |
| Mammoth Spring                  | \$600.00 |
| Troy Road (Obion, TN)           | \$600.00 |
| Crossroads (Gepp, AR)           | \$300.00 |
| Bakersfield (Bakersfield, MO)   | \$200.00 |
| Bellefonte (Harrison, AR)       | \$200.00 |
| Lowell (Springdale, AR)         | \$200.00 |
| Moody (Moody, MO)               | \$200.00 |
| Poughkeepsie (Poughkeepsie, AR) | \$200.00 |
| Clarkridge (Clarkridge, AR)     | \$150.00 |
| Agnos (Agnos, AR)               | \$100.00 |
| Elizabeth (Elizabeth, AR)       | \$100.00 |
| Mead (Durant, OK)               | \$100.00 |

#### Individuals

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Amy Miller (Mt. View, MO)     | \$100.00 |
| Norman Montgomery (Viola, AR) | \$100.00 |
| Anonymous                     | \$50.00  |
| The Kaderabeks (Benton, AR)   | \$50.00  |
| Rose Mayes (Nashville, TN)    | \$50.00  |
| Brenda Porter (Harrison, AR)  | \$50.00  |
| R.B. Watts (Gilmer, TX)       | \$50.00  |

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Contribution Total</b> | <b>\$4,100.00</b> |
| Postage Cost              | \$2,033.10        |
| Printing Cost             | \$1,185.00        |
| Supplies                  | \$491.67          |
| <b>Total Cost</b>         | <b>\$3,709.77</b> |

**Difference** **\$390.23**

#### The Churches of Christ

- Bible only (2 Pet. 1:3)
- Name of Christ (Rom. 16:16)
- Began in Jerusalem (Isa. 2:2-3; Acts 2:1-4)
- Established by Jesus (Matt. 16:18)
- Purchased with Jesus' blood (Acts 20:28)
- Married to Christ (Rom. 7:4)
- Established in the 1st century (Acts 2:47)
- Jesus the Head of the One Body (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23)
- Added to the church by God (Acts 2:41, 47)

#### Salvation

- Saved by grace, through faith (Eph. 2:8-9)
- Not by faith alone (Jas. 2:14-26)
- Not by grace alone (Matt. 7:21)
- Belief and baptism (Mk. 16:16)
- Repentance and baptism (Acts 2:37-38)
- Belief, confession, and baptism (Acts 8:37-38)
- Heard, believed, baptized (Acts 18:8)
- Baptized into Christ's death - raised to a new life (Rom. 6:3-4)
- Baptism is faith in God's working (Col. 2:12)
- Faith and baptism (Gal. 3:26-27)
- Baptism does save us (1 Pet. 3:21)

---

**Fulton County Gospel News** (USPS Publication #211780) is a periodical publication issued bimonthly by the church of Christ at Third & Bethel (PO Box 251), Mammoth Spring, AR 72554-0251. **POSTMASTER: Please mail all changes of address to the above address.** FCCN is mailed free of charge to any who care to receive it. If you send in a name we must have a complete address, including number and street name, or RR, or HCR number, plus box number, or a PO Box number and the **NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE**. This paper is supported by voluntary contributions for which we are grateful. Financial information will be furnished upon request.

**Mail address corrections to: Fulton County Gospel News, PO Box 251, Mammoth Spring, AR 72554**

Editor - Barry O'Dell - Office Phone - (870) 625-3217